

The Ascendo Program : Program Coordinator – Jennifer Schmitz

The Local School Decision Making Committee has made it a goal to offer expanded study skills, tutoring, and mentoring programs here at Walnut Hills. Ascendo is a program offered to all 7th and 8th grade students to help them develop solid study skills and time management. The Program looks to establish a safe and comfortable environment in which to teach students to be a successful part of the Walnut family, by encouraging them to perform to the best of their ability. We understand not every student learns in the same way and the more support students are given, the greater their chances are to succeed.

The Program offers students help in the following ways:

Study skills:

Assistance with time management, test preparation, and note-taking

Long term project work:

Creating a plan with deadlines as well as outlines, thesis statements, and research methods

Tutoring:

Tutoring will be offered on Mondays (rooms 351/353) & Wednesdays (rooms 251/253) from 2:40-3:45. On Thursdays we will be in the library with help focused on research projects as well as homework.

Assignments and project work:

Students will receive help geared towards achieving progress through the use of examples and thought provoking questions, either in small groups or one on one

Test Prep and Exam Prep :

Review for Tests and Final Exams through practice tests and review sheets. We will stress the importance of continued preparation throughout the semester and that a brief review every night is the key to success.

Homework:

We will stress the importance of completing assignments, **and handing them in**. Even if the student struggles, it is important that they turn in what they have to receive credit (at least partial) and seek additional help. Homework can be the key to passing a class even when test grades are a struggle.

Help Nights:

Strongly encourage students to regularly attend help nights if needed.

Parent Coordination and Cooperation :

Provide communication with parents through my website and regular emails. It literally can take a village to help a child achieve success. Continued work with not only students, but teachers, and parents, will enable all of our students to succeed. It is so critical that parents are involved and remain involved throughout this entire year. Asking your students to **SHOW** their progress and reminding them that you are watching, will help keep them on task. Understand that there will be bumps along the way, but that there are a number of resources available to your student if they take advantage of them. Your questions and comments are always welcomed and encourage. If you need an answer, I guarantee a number of other parents are looking for it as well.

I have a website that I ask parents to refer to on a regular basis. Please visit the site, **www.orgsites.com/oh/ascendo**, to register for my regular emails. Through this system I will send regular emails to update parents regarding major assignments and study tips. I can be reached at 349-3598, via email: whhascendo@yahoo.com or schmitj@cps-k12.com or via my Ascendo mailbox in the main office. My desk is located in the new building in room 268. Please feel free to contact me.

Jennifer Schmitz
Ascendo Program Coordinator
www.orgsites.com/oh/ascendo

Ascendo Rules and Expectations

Ascendo is a school sponsored program therefore all school rules still apply.

Schedule	<p>Ascendo will meet on Mondays in rooms 351/353 and Wednesdays in rooms 251/253 from 2:40-3:45. On Thursdays I will be available in the library to assist with research projects and homework. Additionally, study skills seminars will be conducted on either a Tuesday or Thursday as well as exam prep sessions over the weekends in December and May. Students are expected to be in class and ready to work, by the time the bell rings. Our tutors will have a large number of students and we would like to be able to accommodate everyone's needs.</p> <p>If students visit the library or a help night first, they must ask their teacher for a note in order to be admitted to the Ascendo program late.</p> <p>Parents will be notified when students are late and repeated tardiness may result in a suspension of Ascendo privileges for a period of time to-be-determined.</p>
Tutors	<p>Tutors are present to assist students and the program coordinator with the day-to-day successful operation of the program. It is very important that students be respectful of our tutors and follow any and all directions given, even when the program coordinator is occupied.</p>
Preparation	<p>Students should come prepared! Students should bring any binders, folders, homework papers, books, and most importantly their planner every time they attend Ascendo. In some instances students are asked to leave certain textbooks at home. In this case I do have a small number of textbooks for the students to use during the Ascendo program.</p>
Classroom Behavior	<p>Please remind your child that Ascendo is NOT a social hour. Students are here to work on homework, assignments, and study throughout the entire bell. This requires students in general stay in their seats. Misbehaving will not be tolerated.</p> <p>Quiet talking with other students on homework related items is allowed as long as they are not disturbing those around them. If students are <i>unable</i> to follow these rules they will be asked to leave and a parent or guardian will be contacted.</p> <p>On a final note, although we like our students to look their best, Ascendo is not a time for personal grooming. Students should leave lotions, brushes and other items in their bags or lockers.</p>
Location	<p>Students must remain in the classroom for the entire bell. We are not able to dismiss students until 3:45. If it is important that you pick your student up early, please contact me ASAP via phone (you may text me) or email. We will NOT (and cannot) release any student without speaking with their parent or guardian.</p>
Cellphones and iPods	<p>Cell phones must remain in a student's backpack for the entire bell. If you must contact your student please do this through me or the main office. Please! Do not contact your student directly via text or phone call. These situations tend to attract quite a bit of attention and create a disturbance in the classroom.</p> <p>IPOD's are not permitted at this time. In some cases it may be determined that a student would benefit from the use of a music device. These situations will be evaluated by the program coordinator in conjunction with the School Psychologist.</p>
Teamwork	<p>Students may work in pairs provided that they remain focused and on-task. It is also critical that students recognize that working in pairs is a collaborative effort. Each student MUST do their own work on their own paper. Working together is meant to give the students the opportunity to discuss what they are learning. It is NOT intended for 1 student to do the work and others to simply copy. This practice is cheating and any student engaging in this activity in any way will promptly be referred to the school's administration for disciplinary action.</p>

If you have signed your student up and they will not be able to attend, please contact me via email (whhsascendo@yahoo.com or schmitj@cps-k12.org) as soon as possible. You may also contact me via phone: 513-349-3598.

Please review these rules with your child and sign on the indicated line on the registration form.
Dear Parents of seventh and eighth grade students,

In an effort to provide additional support for students in grades seven and eight, Walnut Hills will offer a special program after school, Ascendo.

