

# **WPSD #1 COYOTE ACADEMY GUIDELINES**

## **DISTRICT VISION**

The mission of Williston Public School District #1 is to prepare students to be successful at the next level of education, work, and life.

## **COYOTE ACADEMY PURPOSE**

Coyote Academy is a WPSD program in which innovative opportunities are offered to students that are academically advanced.

## **DISTRICT COMMITTEE**

The District Coyote Academy Committee will be made up of WPSD staff. This committee will have the following responsibilities:

- Meet annually to review/revise guidelines as needed
- Review current members' academic progress
- Review all applications and determine membership
  - Group will meet in September, December, and March

## **DISTRICT CRITERIA**

It is the expectation of the district that all Coyote Academy students:

- are proficient or above on either MAP or ACT.
- have a 3 or 4 on Standardized Report Card (3rd/4th) or a minimum 3.0 GPA (5<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup>)
- maintain exemplary attendance
  - the Coyote Academy definition of exemplary attendance is in accordance with the district expectations for receiving an outstanding attendance award: no more than one day absent or one day tardy.
- show exemplary behavior
  - the Coyote Academy definition of exemplar behavior is in accordance with district expectations. If behavior is called into question, the committee will refer to the district student handbook for guidance.
- Coyote Academy applicants should also have been identified by a teacher as Advanced/Accelerated (4th grade) or meet the WPSD criteria for acceleration.

*Probationary status for failing to maintain the above expectations are determined by district committee and may result in loss of privileges and/or coyote academy membership.*

## **APPLICATIONS**

Any WPSD student may apply to be a part of the Coyote Academy, but there are academic requirements (See District Criteria) that must be met and maintained throughout the student's involvement in the program.

- Once an application is received it will be reviewed by the Coyote Academy district committee. Although applications can be submitted at any time, the committee only meets in September, December, and March.
- Once an application has been approved, that student will bring home an acceptance letter with more information.
- Coyote Pup Academy: 3rd and 4th grade applications will be considered first, but K-2nd grade students may be considered on a case by case basis.

## **GRADE LEVEL EXPECTATIONS**

### **ELEMENTARY ACADEMY (K-4)**

- Students will meet once a week during a scheduled time.
- Activities will introduce students to new technology, offer online opportunities, and allow students voice/choice in their activities.
- Activities may include critical thinking, STEAM projects, animation, robotics, online programming, field trips, and guest speakers. The building Library Media Specialist will lead all activities.
- Students may be asked to be leaders to their peers, helping others to learn the skills they have already mastered.
- Acellus may be used during the program.
- Students will be asked to log their experiences and reflections.
- There will be two showcase opportunities for students to present what they have learned to peers, teachers, and parents.

### **BAKKEN ACADEMY (5-6)**

- Students will meet weekly during one of the designated Coyote Academy times. The Library Media Specialist will lead all activities.
- Activities may include STEAM projects, critical thinking activities, field trips, and guest speakers. Students will have voice/choice in the activities.
- Students will be asked to log their experiences and reflections., focusing on a specific area of interest to be developed throughout the year.
- There will be two showcase opportunities for students to present what they have learned to peers, teachers, and parents.

### **MIDDLE SCHOOL ACADEMY (7-8)**

At this level, more independence is expected.

- Students will have the opportunity to meet during scheduled Coyote Academy blocks for activities that focus on different technology, future ready skills, and careers.
- Students will need to choose an area of interest and will be assigned a mentor to develop that interest into a research project.

- Career shadowing and mentoring opportunities will be available to students in the Middle School.
- Students will be asked to log their experiences and reflections while building a portfolio of their learning.

### Mentors

WPSD staff who wish to serve as mentors will need to contact Lesley Allan.

### Mentor Responsibilities

- Communicate (at minimum) biweekly with CA students and document (via face-to-face, email, etc.)
- Encourage and mentor CA students toward leadership development opportunities, challenging coursework, and/or service-oriented work
  - For middle school mentors this may include overseeing and recording grades for online coursework
  - Other responsibilities may be included, per the committee or superintendent

## **HIGH SCHOOL ACADEMY (9-12)**

At this level, independence is expected.

- Students will have the opportunity to meet during scheduled Coyote Academy blocks for activities that focus on different technology, future ready skills, and careers. The library media specialist will lead all activities.
- Opportunities to complete HS credits will be available. College credits are also a possibility.
- Students will need to choose an area of interest and will be assigned a mentor to develop that interest into a research project. This is an independent activity. Mentors and the Librarian are available for support but the project is the responsibility of the student.
- Career shadowing and mentoring opportunities will be available.
- Students will be asked to log their experiences and reflections while building a portfolio of their learning.
- Flexible scheduling may be possible and will be determined with a review of academic progress.

### Mentors

WPSD staff who wish to serve as mentors will need to contact Lesley Allan.

### Mentor Responsibilities

- Communicate (at minimum) biweekly with CA students and document (via face-to-face, email, etc.)

- Encourage and mentor CA students toward leadership development opportunities, challenging coursework, and/or service-oriented work
  - For high school mentors this may include setting up job shadowing opportunities/internships and advising on annual culminating projects
  - Other responsibilities may be included, per the committee or superintendent