

Success Center for Learning
2755 NE Loop 286
Paris, Texas 75460



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**The next SAT/ACT Class
is Feb. 2.**

For more information, visit the website at
www.successcenter.us

**SCHOOL YEAR
INSTRUCTION SCHEDULE**

Monday & Wednesday
4 p.m.-7 p.m.
Tuesday & Thursday
4 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.
Friday & Saturday
By Appointment

SUCCESS CENTER FOR LEARNING

is the supplemental education center in
Paris, Texas, specializing in Reading, Writing,
Math, Algebra, Geometry, and STAAR instruction and
ACT/SAT/PSAT preparation classes.

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Success Center for Learning

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Myrna Look, B.S.....	Instructor
Alva Mason, B.S.....	Instructor
Yesica Munguia, M.Ed.....	Instructor
Virginia Pry, B.B.A.....	Instructor
Ryan Skidmore, M.S.....	Instructor
Paula Welch.....	Teacher Assistant

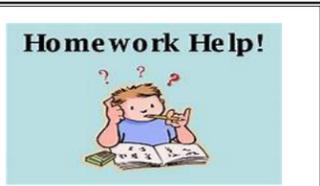
Focus on Education

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**BAD WEATHER
POLICY**

Although schools announce bad weather closings early in the morning or the day before, Success Center does not always close since our instruction starts later in the day. A determination will be made by 10:00 a.m. on the day in question and will be posted on our Facebook page.



Success Center offers 1:1 tutoring/homework support in several specialized areas:

- Algebra I, II /Geometry
- English/Grammar
- Biology /Chemistry
- Earth/Physical Science
- Physics/Calculus/Pre-Cal
- Statistics
- Geography/History
- SAT/PSAT/ACT
- Spanish
- STAAR Prep

Subject availability is dependent upon current staff abilities

Help Your Child Start the New Year with Success

It's a new year! If your child had a less than wonderful first semester, had difficulty with getting homework done, or experienced stress on test days, here are some ideas to help start the second semester off in the right direction. *(Second article is on p. 2)*

Five Ways to Handle Homework With Middle School Students

In middle school, students are expected to be more independent learners. They will have more homework to keep track of, organize, and complete. Often, this is one of the hardest ages to monitor homework without battles that can come along with it. Here are a few ways to avoid those battles.

Review your child's homework routine. Does your child have a homework routine? If not, he needs one. He should have a special place to do his homework, and you may need to add to his supply station as he gets older with age-appropriate supplies such as a calculator, highlighters, etc. If he is active in extra-curricular activities, you will want to work together to create a daily schedule that includes homework time.

Put electronics aside. Cell phones can be a huge distraction from homework. Set rules such as turning the phone to silent—not vibrate—and turning off notifications for email and social media. To show him you take this very seriously, consider doing the same with your phone and electronics during homework time. You might even have a small box for the cell phones to be placed until homework is completed.

Model organization and time management skills. Students with learning and attention issues can have trouble with organization and time-management. Consider hanging a wall calendar or white board to show appointments and activities, and also share your own strategies for organization and time-management. Setting your phone alarm for important reminders also sets a good example. Give your child a planner, and encourage him to record homework assignments, test dates, etc. Also, make sure he packs his backpack each night so that nothing is left out.

Don't let homework become a power struggle! Letting yourself get drawn into an argument about homework may give your child the idea that doing it is negotiable. Instead of arguing, try to be matter-of-fact. Say something like, "It's homework time. I'm here if you need help. When you are done, you can have free time." Having the homework routine and schedule written out and posted can help keep the atmosphere calmer. If he starts to argue, all you have to do is point to the schedule.

Be a guide, not a partner. Homework is your child's job, not yours. If he asks for help with a multiplication problem, it's OK to show him how to set it up, but use one that is not part of the homework. If he needs help editing an essay assignment, talk him through changes that might make it better instead of just fixing the mistakes. By guiding your child through the process, you are helping him learn to become more independent and to take ownership of the homework, thus fostering pride in his work.



FOCUS ON IN-SCHOOL NEWS

For more than 20 years, Success Center's in-school programs have helped hundreds of students across north Texas improve their reading and math skills and also improve their performances on tests such as STAAR.

As director of Success Center's in-school programs, I am often asked how school districts are using our program and how students are selected to be in Success labs in the schools we serve. The answer is very much based on the Response-to-Intervention (RTI) requirements and also requirements for providing interventions to students who have an identified learning disability or other situation which affects the student's ability to learn as well as other students.

Most of our elementary schools use both the reading and math Success programs to serve students receiving RTI interventions, as well as providing remedial instruction to students who have already been identified as having a learning disability. The school-based Success labs normally provide at least 45 minutes of daily intensive instruction, 4-5 days each week. This instruction is completely customized to a student's specific needs.

The Junior High and High School Success programs primarily serve students who have failed to pass the STAAR test in the previous school year. However, they also serve several students who have already been identified as needing additional support in math due to a specific learning disability. Our goal in both situations is to enable students to work as close to grade level as possible and to pass their STAAR tests! These programs typically are an assigned class period (used as an elective) that meets daily. They do not replace regular classroom instruction for the student, but do give each student an opportunity to catch up to the requirements of the regular classroom. These students also work several

times each week with materials that are presented in the same manner as the STAAR test.

Success Center also monitors overall Success data and progress for all students in participating schools three times each year (beginning of year, mid-year, and end-of-year). Data results are shared with teachers and administrators in order to assist in making more specific intervention decisions for Success students to help them improve performance in both our lab and the classroom.

Many parents ask how they can get their student into a Success lab at their child's school. Selection varies from school-to-school and depends upon the criteria that each campus agrees upon. For most campuses, a student would need to have a suspected or identified learning disability in either reading or math (or both). Also, all of the Success students in our schools are having difficulty with material in the regular classroom and/or taking state-mandated tests, such as the STAAR or EOC (End of Course) exams. For students whose needs are served through Special Education services, these decisions are typically made by the ARD committee. For students who are identified as having difficulties but who are not served currently through SpEd, most campuses have an RTI committee that will determine what specific intervention is best for each student in need.

If you are concerned about your child's progress in reading or math, make sure to stay in close contact with his/her teacher(s) and with the school counselor. They will be the first to help organize and provide any needed interventions for your child. If your child is already identified as having a learning disability, it is your right as a parent to request a meeting at any time to discuss your concerns about your child's education.

---Wendy Dougherty
In-School Director

Many students experience test anxiety, but some kids may need an extra confidence boost! Here are some ideas.



- 1. Turn up the music!** Research suggests that music can be empowering and energizing. Listening to high-volume, bass-heavy songs tends to put people in a more powerful frame of mind. Have you heard music like "Gonna Fly Now" from "Rocky" at marathons and other sporting events? Have your child create a playlist of songs that make her feel strong and play it on the way to school for an extra boost of confidence.
- 2. Strike a power pose.** Researchers have found that people who make themselves "small" by slouching or crossing their arms actually feel less confident. Early studies show that the opposite may be true when they stretch out and make themselves "large." Show your child a few "power poses" that she can do before school or at recess on test day.
- 3. Grab a "lucky charm."** Research suggests that carry-

ing some kind of lucky token can actually build confidence and relieve anxiety. People who had their "lucky charms" with them actually performed better and set higher goals for themselves than people who did not. Also, wish your student good luck on test days!

- 4. Make an "I did it!" list.** Success really does breed success. Remembering past achievements may boost your child's confidence before she tackles a new challenge. Brainstorm together a list of some of her accomplishments such as scoring a goal, being her grade's student of the month, or helping a friend during a difficult time. Write them down, and then encourage her to review the list during the days before the test.
- 5. Smile!** Smiling is a sign of happiness, but researchers have found that smiling can also be an instant stress-reducer by slowing people's heart rates during anxiety-producing situations. Remind her to give herself and her teacher a big grin on test day!

NEXT SAT/ACT Prep Class

February 2, 2019

One-day prep classes cover both the SAT and ACT Tests. Students will receive instruction and practice in all subject areas plus test-taking strategies.

Students can select the **All-Day** or **Specific Subject** option. For more information about the two options, visit our website.

Frankie's Focus

There are times that you may need a children's book to help explain the absence of a parent/loved one. *Sun Kisses, Moon Hugs* deals with an absence of a parent/loved one. The other two deal with death from a child's perspective. Both of these have some suggestions and questions to use with little ones.

ACT & SAT TEST DATES 2018-19

ACT Test Date	Reg Deadline
Feb 9, 2019	Jan 11, 2019
April 13, 2019	Mar 8, 2019
June 8, 2019	May 3, 2019
July 13, 2019	June 14, 2019

SAT Test Date	Reg Deadline
March 19, 2019	Feb 8, 2019
May 4, 2019	April 5, 2019
June 1, 2019	May 3, 2019

Scholarship for Success

Success Center for Learning announces its annual Scholarship for Success. For the nineteenth year, Success Center will award a \$500 scholarship to a graduating high school senior. All of us at Success Center are excited about this because it is a way for us to give back to the community and to the students who have attended Success Center. A student who has attended Success Center for any of our programs (reading, math, algebra, geometry, homework support, study skills, PACE/Master the Code, ACT, or SAT) is eligible to apply for the scholarship.

A committee will review applications to select the recipient. Success Center will pay \$250 per semester to the student's choice of college for the 2019--2020 school year. Scholarship applications are available at Success Center or online at www.successcenter.us and are due by April 12. For more information, call Success Center.