School-Connect

Optimizing the School Experience

School-Connect 4.0 Alignment with MAPS Class TEKS

Based on Texas' Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS) for Methods for Academic and Personal Success (MAPS), School-Connect aligns well with all MAPS course objectives. The course focuses on the skills and strategies necessary for students to make a successful transition into high school and an academic career. Students explore options available in high school, higher education, and the professional world in order to establish both immediate and long-range personal goals. After identifying their individual learning styles and abilities, students build on these abilities by developing critical time-management, organization, and study skills. The course focuses on self-understanding, decision-making, resiliency, attitude, character education, and leadership to help students maximize personal achievement. The course emphasizes proactive problem-solving, self-determination, and independent thinking and learning skills. In addition, students explore and experience collaboration as a tool for creative problem solving.

COMPETENCY 1: LEARNING AND COMMUNICATION STYLES	
(A) determine personal learning style	*Think-Pair-Share and interactive activities embedded throughout School-Connect 4.0 give students opportunities to get to know each other, build rapport, and practice communication skills. Additionally, specific lessons address:* 1.5: Growing and Improving 3.7: Maximizing Out-of-class Learning 3.4: Optimizing In-class Learning 3.8: Making the Most of Test Prep
(B) determine personal communication style	2.1: Creating First Impressions 6.2: Being Aware of Personality Styles 2.4: Using Active Listening 6.4: De-escalating Conflict 2.5: Connecting with Peers
(C) identify demonstrate effective communication strategies in a variety of situations with varied audiences	2.6: Communicating with Adults 5.6: Advocating for Others 2.8: Preparing for Presentations 10.2: Interviewing Effectively 5.5: Branching Outside Your Social Circle 10.5: Providing Customer Service 5.6: Advocating for Others 10.6: Problem Solving in the Workplace 5.7: Skill-building for Challenging Conversations 10.8: Exhibiting Leadership
(D) formulate and provide effective verbal and nonverbal feedback and respond appropriately to presentations of peers	2.7: Giving and Receiving Feedback 4.4: Brainstorming and Idea Building 4.2: Collaborating Effectively 6.1: Developing Positive Relationships 4.3: Disagreeing Respectfully
(E) synthesize research and self-analysis to establish strategies for academic and personal success	1.5: Growing and Improving 7.1: Recognizing Character Strengths 1.6: Setting up for School Success 7.2: Being Your True Self 3.1: Goal-Setting for School Success 7.3: Forging Your Path 3.2: Applying Growth Mindset 8.1: Increasing Your Emotional Awareness 3.3: Bouncing Back from Setbacks 8.2: Appreciating the Power of Thought 6.3: Monitoring & Managing Emotions
(F) demonstrate tolerance and appreciation of other's motivations and strengths	4.5: Agreeing on Group Responsibilities 5.3: Checking for Blind Spots 4.6: Negotiating Within Groups 5.4: Appreciating Diversity 5.1: Valuing Community and Cultural Wealth 5.5: Branching Outside Your Social Circle 5.2: Working Toward Empathy 5.8: Becoming Change Agents

(G) identify and monitor personal behaviors of academic success that are critical in maintaining a passing average	1.6: Setting up for School Success 3.4: Optimizing In-class Learning 3.5: Managing Time and Priorities 3.6: Overcoming Procrastination 3.7: Maximizing Out-of-class Learning	3.8: Making the Most of Test Prep 7.5: Furthering Your Education 7.6: Envisioning Your Future 7.7: Setting Life Goals 7.8: Mapping Your Plan

COMPETENCY 2: SELF-DISCIPLINE AND ATTITUDE

(A) brainstorm and compile a code of conduct for a model campus	1.9: Agreeing on a Class Contract (PBL) 4.4: Brainstorming and Idea Building	5.9: Envisioning More Inclusive Communities (PBL)
(B) identify the student's personal attitude and the positive and negative effects of attitude on self and others	3.2: Applying Growth Mindset 3.7.2: "Academitude" Survey 5.3: Checking for Blind Spots	7.1: Recognizing Character Strengths 8.2: Appreciating the Power of Thought 8.8: Cultivating Hope and Happiness
(C) identify the student's personal ability to adhere to campus policies and design a plan of improvement as needed	NA	
(D) define anger and analyze positive and negative methods for handling anger	1.8: Finding Calm 6.3: Monitoring & Managing Emotions 6.4: De-escalating Conflict	6.5: Using Problem-solving Strategies 8.1: Increasing Your Emotional Awareness 8.2: Appreciating the Power of Thought
(E) define change and identify steps necessary to accomplish change	1.5: Growing and Improving 3.2: Applying Growth Mindset	5.8: Becoming Change Agents
(F) analyze situations regarding campus policies and rules of conduct to determine the issue or problem involved in each, outline possible responses, and propose a positive solution	6.5: Using Problem-solving Strategies	

COMPETENCY 3: RESILIENCY

(A) identify and discuss elements of personal and environmental resiliency	1.5: Growing and Improving 1.5.1: Understanding Resiliency (self-assessment checklist	

(B) explain the concept of self-image and its potential impact on life choices	5.1: Valuing Community and Cultural Wealth 6.2: Being Aware of Personality Styles 7.2: Being Your True Self	7.2.1: Avoiding Pop Culture Pitfalls, Pt 1 7.2.2: Avoiding Pop Culture Pitfalls, Pt 2
(C) apply conflict resolution skills both orally and in writing	4.2: Collaborating Effectively 4.3: Disagreeing Respectfully 6.4: De-escalating Conflict	6.5: Using Problem-solving Strategies 6.6: Making a Sincere Apology 6.7: Forgiving Others & Ourselves
(D) identify and explain primary causes of stress and identify healthy stress management skills and strategies	1.7: Checking in on Ourselves and Others 1.8: Finding Calm 8.1: Increasing Your Emotional Awareness	8.2: Appreciating the Power of Thought 8.3: Coping with Stress/Anxiety 8.7: Practicing Self-Care
(E) identify a balanced set of personal and academic goals, including both short-term and long-term goals	3.1: Goal-Setting for School Success 3.1.1: Tapping in to SMART Goals and Visualization 7.6: Envisioning Your Future	7.7: Setting Life Goals 7.8: Mapping Your Plan 7.9: Presenting Your Mission Map (PBL)
(F) outline an action plan, including a proposed time frame, to achieve a specific goal	3.1: Goal-Setting for School Success 7.7: Setting Life Goals	7.8: Mapping Your Plan 7.9: Presenting Your Mission Map (PBL)

COMPETENCY 4: TIME MANAGEMENT AND ORGANIZATION

(A) describe the importance of time management skills including prioritizing and scheduling	3.5: Managing Time and Priorities	3.6: Overcoming Procrastination
(B) define and demonstrate responsibility and accountability in time management	1.6: Setting up for School Success 1.6.1: Avoiding Poisonous Zeroes	1.6.2: Keeping a Planner 3.8: Making the Most of Test Prep
(C) describe tools of organization including different methods of organization	1.6.2: Keeping a Planner 3.5: Managing Time and Priorities	3.6: Overcoming Procrastination 3.6.1: Applying the Pomodoro Method
(D) prioritize personal and academic goals	3.1: Goal-Setting for School Success 7.6: Envisioning Your Future 7.7: Setting Life Goals	7.8: Mapping Your Plan 7.9: Presenting Your Mission Map (PBL)
(E) develop a personal organization system to monitor progress and completion of assignments and	1.6.2: Keeping a Planner	3.5: Managing Time and Priorities

projects for all academic courses	

COMPETENCY 5: STUDY SKILLS	
(A) define the characteristics of a successful student	1.6: Setting up for School Success 3.4: Optimizing In-class Learning 3.5: Managing Time and Priorities 3.6: Overcoming Procrastination 3.7: Maximizing Out-of-class Learning 3.8: Making the Most of Test Prep 3.9: Studying Strategies EXPO (PBL)
(B) analyze the benefits of good study habits and the costs of poor ones	7.4: Furthering Your Education 7.4.1: Valuing an Education
(C) describe and apply characteristics of effective study skills	3.4: Optimizing In-class Learning 3.7: Maximizing Out-of-class Learning
(D) discuss and demonstrate use of a variety of memory techniques	3.7: Maximizing Out-of-class Learning 3.7.2: Making the Most of Flashcards
(E) follow directions and to listen for a specific purpose	2.4: Using Active Listening 3.4.2: Utilizing *SLANT*
(F) use reading strategies, including rereading and questioning, to increase comprehension	3.4: Optimizing In-class Learning (Note-taking)
(G) apply various study strategies such as skimming, note-taking, outlining, and using study-guide questions to determine which strategies work best for the student	3.4: Optimizing In-class Learning (Note-taking) 3.8: Making the Most of Test Prep 3.7: Maximizing Out-of-class Learning
(H) discuss and apply test-taking strategies	1.6: Setting up for School Success 3.8.1: Feeding Your Brain 3.8: Making the Most of Test Prep
(I) research and present on the use and benefits of commonly used study skills	3.9: Studying Strategies EXPO (PBL)

COMPETENCY 6: LEADERSHIP	
(A) define leadership	10.8: Exhibiting Leadership

(B) list and analyze the characteristics of an effective leader, including the interpersonal skills required for leadership	7.1: Recognizing Character Strengths	10.8: Exhibiting Leadership
(C) evaluate personal strengths and areas for growth to determine one's own leadership style	7.1: Recognizing Character Strengths	10.8: Exhibiting Leadership
(D) identify the purpose and benefit of delegating	4.1: Preparing for Group Projects 4.5: Agreeing on Group Responsibilities 4.6: Negotiating Within Groups	4.7: Practicing Group Work 4.8: Reflecting on Lessons Learned
(E) participate in group projects as both the leader and a supporting member	4.7: Practicing Group Work	4.9: Presenting a Service Project Plan (PBL)

COMPETENCY 7: CHARACTER

(A) define positive character traits that comprise the following strands: trustworthiness, responsibility, caring, and citizenship	6.1: Developing Positive Relationships	7.1: Recognizing Character Strengths
(B) define character and describe someone in history who can be considered a person of character	7.1: Recognizing Character Strengths 7.2.1: Avoiding Pop Culture Pitfalls, Pt 1	7.2.2: Avoiding Pop Culture Pitfalls, Pt 2
(C) identify positive and negative strategies for dealing with failure and with success	1.5: Growing and Improving 3.2: Applying Growth Mindset	3.3: Bouncing Back from Setbacks 7.8: Mapping Your Plan
(D) evaluate personal strategies for dealing with failure and with success, identifying specific strengths and weaknesses	1.5: Growing and Improving 3.2: Applying Growth Mindset	3.3: Bouncing Back from Setbacks 7.8: Mapping Your Plan
(E) analyze positive and negative influences that others have on personal action and beliefs;	5.2: Working Toward Empathy 5.3: Checking for Blind Spots 5.4: Appreciating Diversity 5.5: Branching Outside Your Social Circle 8.1: Increasing Your Emotional Awareness 8.2: Appreciating the Power of Thought	8.5: Breaking Through Loneliness 8.6: Recognizing When You/Others Need Help 8.7: Practicing Self-Care 8.8: Cultivating Hope and Happiness

(F) identify areas in which personal responsibility may be exercised or improved	1.5: Growing and Improving 1.6: Setting up for School Success 6.6: Making a Sincere Apology	7.6: Envisioning Your Future 7.7: Setting Life Goals 7.8: Mapping Your Plan
(G) discuss ethical behavior and integrity as a part of academic and personal success	1.9: Agreeing on a Class Contract (PBL)	6.1: Developing Positive Relationships

COMPETENCY 8: ACADEMIC EXPLORATION		
(A) determine individual talents, abilities, skills, and interests	7.1: Recognizing Character Strengths 7.2: Being Your True Self	7.3: Forging Your Path 7.4: Exploring Career Options
(B) identify high school courses related to career choices in the student's interest area	7.5: Furthering Your Education 7.5.1: Preparing for College Apps (A Step-by-Step Guide for Grades 9-12)	
(C) select a university, college, community college, trade school or internship based on a college choice survey and develop a plan to enter or start selected post high school career plan	7.5: Furthering Your Education 11.3: Researching Colleges/Universities	11.4: Navigating College Applications
(D) research postsecondary options by writing professional letters requesting information from selected programs	11.4: Navigating College Applications	
(E) investigate and develop application materials such as an entrance essay or resume needed for postsecondary institution applications	11.5: Writing Your College Essays 11.6: Organizing Your Time & Priorities	11.7: Applying for Financial Aid

COMPETENCY 9: CAREER EXPLORATION		
(A) compare interests and aptitudes identified via a career interest or aptitude assessment survey to career opportunities	7.4: Exploring Career Options	

(B) explain the impact of career choice on lifestyle, including budget	7.4.1: Valuing an Education	
(C) create a personal career portfolio by conducting an in-depth study of the varied aspects of occupations related to the student's interest areas	7.9: Presenting Your Mission Map (PBL)	10.9: Employability Skills Portfolio (PBL)
(D) research careers available with and without a college/university degree using print and online resources as well as personal interviews	11.1: Considering Your Options After High School	11.3: Researching Colleges/Universities 11.2: Exploring Job Training Programs
(E) analyze the personal characteristics, knowledge, and skills necessary for the workplace	2.1: Creating First Impressions 10.2: Interviewing Effectively 10.3: Developing a Work Ethic 10.4: Practicing Teamwork	10.5: Providing Customer Service 10.6: Problem Solving in the Workplace 10.7: Responding to Feedback 10.8: Exhibiting Leadership
(F) investigate and develop employment materials such as an application, resume, or personal references in the student's area of interest	10.1: Writing a Resume	
(G) identify and practice the skills necessary for a job interview and participate in a mock job interview	10.2: Interviewing Effectively	
(H) prepare and deliver presentations individually and in groups to demonstrate knowledge of career possibilities and the decision process involved in identifying career goals	2.8: Preparing for Presentations 2.9: Demonstrating Effective Communication (PBL)	7.4: Exploring Career Options 7.9: Presenting Your Mission Map (PBL) 10.9: Employability Skills Portfolio (PBL)