

Middle School ZAP Proposed Changes for the Spring Semester

1. As a staff we would like to assign ZAPs for the day of the missed assignment. We currently assign a ZAP for the next day; this process requires our teachers to deal with the situation twice in turn taking valuable teaching and learning time out of our school day. We do understand that the current way gives more notification to the parents, but we feel as if the current method enables our students to not complete work. We have noticed that we never see an estimated 75% of ZAP notices returned, so in reality our parents are not notified. It is our belief that changing the current method would build more responsibility in our students, make our students more accountable, improve work ethic and increase parent involvement.
2. Our current ZAP policy requires all student's to stay the entire time of the ZAP period. Several times we have students who finish their work within the first 15 to 20 minutes and then have nothing to work on. We would like to allow the students who complete their work before the period is over to leave pending the ZAP teacher's approval of the work. We feel like this would encourage our students to complete the unfinished work and would cut down on discipline problems with student's who become bored when they have nothing else to work on. And most importantly it would allow the teachers who are working the ZAP program more time to work one on one with the students left.
3. Our last change we would like to consider is to increase the amount of deduction taken off for late work. Currently if a student is Zapped they can still receive an A for their late work. We would like to increase the amount of the initial deduction to 20%. This idea still allows for the student with late work to receive an above average grade. And in turn rewards the students who complete their work on time while giving all students the chance to succeed.

As a school we feel as if these changes would benefit our students, teachers and culture of school. Our ultimate goal is for ZAP to become a rare event for our students. With changes, we envision our students becoming more responsible, independent and educated while utilizing more student/teacher time on task. Thank you for considering these changes.

Jack Kelley

Principal
