



Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

1. What is Aspire2Excellence?

Aspire2Excellence is the academic planning initiative designed to empower families with information as they are planning each child's educational pathway and their college and career future.

2. Why is Aspire2Excellence important?

Aspire2Excellence underscores the importance of every student taking rigorous courses and meeting rigorous graduation requirements in order to be college and career ready for life after high school.

3. How is Aspire2Excellence connected to graduation?

In order for all APS students to be college and career ready they need to meet rigorous graduation requirements. Students and families must begin planning as early as elementary school and should know the following:

- Academic options available throughout APS
- Importance of taking advanced courses in middle and high school
- Math course pathways
- World language options
- Difference between the standard and advanced diploma

4. What is academic planning?

Academic planning is a process that begins early in elementary school and continues throughout middle and high school. The purpose of academic planning is to assist the student and family with making educational decisions as they plan the student's pathway to graduation and to post-secondary educational opportunities.

5. Who is involved in academic planning?

The school counselor works with each student and family to provide information on the various options in APS and advise students and families as they make informed decisions about what courses to take to meet rigorous graduation requirements. The school counselor also works with the student and family to develop a plan for life after high school.

6. What happens during the academic planning meeting?

During the academic planning meeting, each student has the opportunity to meet with the school counselor to discuss her/his educational and career goals. Students engage in career exploration that helps them learn more about how their interests match with a career field before they meet with the school counselor.

7. What is the academic plan?

The academic plan is an individualized personal plan that is formally developed in grades 6-12. The academic plan links the student's career interests to course selection and leads to meeting rigorous graduation requirements and post-graduation goals.

8. How can I participate and get more information about academic planning?

Contact your child's professional school counselor to find out how you can participate and get more information about academic planning.

9. Where can I find information on Aspire2Excellence and academic planning?

www.apsva.us/academicplanning

10. Where can I get more information on college and career readiness?

www.apsva.us/collegecorner