Mr. Buso’s OneGoal Online Syllabus

FAQ’s

How do I contact you?

That is a wonderful question. You can contact me by email at benjamin.buso@houstonisd.org, through TEAMS chat/phone call, or you can call me at 409-241-9783.

What exactly are we doing in this class?

This year we will focus on SAT Prep, explore career options for life after college, learn about how scholarships and financial aid works, job interview techniques, resume writing and begin crafting your personal statement.

What is a personal statement?

A personal statement or a statement of purpose, is an essay or other written statement written by an applicant, often a prospective student applying to some college, university, or graduate school. Ideally, by the end of this year you have created a personal statement that you could use to apply for dozens of scholarships. Your personal statement might need to be modified slightly depending on what scholarship or school you are applying to. With a good personal statement ready to go, you will not need to start from scratch every time you apply for a scholarship.

Is this Do Now/group activity/assignment/discussion project for a grade?

Yes! Everything we do in class is for a grade. Absolutely everything.

A National Program

Welcome to OneGoal! We are a National organization with over 14,000 Fellows, 186 schools and six regions (see map below) across the United States. Our mission is to ensure that every young person will have an equitable opportunity to achieve their greatest postsecondary aspiration. You are joining a family of Fellows (students), Program Directors (teachers), OneGoal staff and a network of supporters that will support you over the next three-years.
Three-Year Program

Each year, Fellows will engage in a variety of experiences to help them gain a deeper sense of self, develop a stronger vision for what they want their future to look like and an opportunity to take the necessary steps to realize that future. Below are some of the overarching topics for each program year.

Y1, Junior Year

During Y1, Fellows will learn more about OneGoal and begin discovering more about yourself and building a community of support with your cohort. You will explore different components of your identity, your strengths and your aspirations. Through OneGoal you will learn more about the various postsecondary opportunities that exist and hone in on the institutions and/or programs that fit your academic profile, unique strengths, values, and visions for your future so that you understand what is needed to ultimately pursue that path. Additionally, you will engage in a one-on-one check-in with your PD every Zone to connect on how you are doing—celebrate your successes, problem solve on any challenges and create a plan for action steps you will need to take before your next check-in to ensure you are on track to meeting your goals. See below for this year’s content!

| Zone 1 | We will begin the year by developing a trusting relationship with your PD and cultivating a class community where Fellows know and trust each other. |
| GPA Zone | We will then learn more about the various postsecondary pathways that exist. You will deepen your understanding of your academic standing, eligibility to various postsecondary institutions and programs and selectivity as a means to empower you to create growth goals that will help broaden your postsecondary options. |
| Zone 2 | This zone grounds personal identity in historical and social realities as well as the very real strengths of our Fellows and their communities. We will engage with community members to learn more about the factors that have shaped your community members and how your community members have shaped you—laying the groundwork for a stronger sense of self moving into the spring semester. |
| Zone 3 | Next, we will build on your existing understanding of your identity and strengths work completed in Zone 2. We will deepen your understanding of your strengths, explore your values, potential fields of study and careers to uncover what your professional aspirations are. |
| Zone 4 | In this zone, before making decisions about how you will move forward, you will consider the criteria that most matter to you as you determine match and best-fit institutions and programs. You will then use this information to research and identify the postsecondary institutions and programs you plan to apply to in the fall. |
| Zone 5 | This zone will help prepare you for the process of applying to postsecondary options by developing your personal statements—ensuring you start off senior year ready to hit the ground running. |

Grading

OneGoal is a graded, credited course, using your high school’s customary grading scale. Cumulative grades will be based on the progress you make during each individual Zone throughout the course. The following weighted grading percentages will be used to determine your cumulative course grade:

- In class activities and assignments (on Teams and 1:1 check-ins with your PD) (50%)
- Zone Assessments & Reflections (Projects) (30%)
- Khan Academy SAT Test Prep (20%)
- Participation (10%)
Zone Assessments & Reflections (Projects)

Zone Assessments are longer-term, intensive projects that typically consist of some research/planning, some small group work, and/or a presentation in front of the class.

Notes about projects:
- All of the Zones throughout the OneGoal program will require Fellows to complete one or two projects.
- Revisions are up to your PD to allow. Zone Assessments will be collected and graded at the end of each Zone.
- Zone Assessments are designed to help you meet Y1 goals and be prepared for next year.
- Upon completion of a project, you will complete a written self-reflection on what you have learned from participating in the project.
- The first student to email me a picture of Nicolas Cage will get a "get out of jail free" card from Mr. Buso.
- Your PD will then use a rubric to grade your Zone Assessment (including the self-reflection) and will assign either a numerical or alphabetical grade. Projects will determine the majority of your final grade for the course.

Course Policies

- Attendance: Please note that attendance greatly impacts your grade! Therefore, it is the Fellow's responsibility to ask for and make up any missed work due to an excused absence by the given deadline (with any adjustments determined by the PD). PDs will provide a calendar with all assignments laid out on a Zone by Zone basis. Fellows may refer to this calendar if absent at any time.
- Cheating/plagiarism: If a Fellow is caught cheating or plagiarizing another's work, the grade is automatically a zero and parents/guardians will be notified.
- Attitude: Fellows are expected to show up as mature leaders. Therefore, respect for yourself, your peers, your PD and your assignments is the expectation.
- While OneGoal can be exciting, engaging and fun, preparing for postsecondary success is hard work that requires careful planning and a personal commitment to responsibility. The OneGoal classroom is a place where Fellows develop a plan for achieving the big goals they have for themselves, and will support one another as a team in pursuit of those goals.

Submission of Work

All assignments need to be submitted to THE HUB. Each school day the assignment is late the assignment is dropped 10 points each day for a total of 30 points, limit of 3 days. It is the students responsibility to turn in assignments when they are due.

Behavioral Expectations for Students

Students at all levels are now engaging in virtual class check-in sessions on Google Meet. To ensure a positive and productive learning environment during these sessions, it is important that all students adhere to the following behavioral expectations.

- Always be respectful and courteous to other students and teachers during TEAMS classes, virtual check-in sessions. Inappropriate, offensive or threatening comments; misrepresentation of identity, and/or disruptive behavior by any participants during TEAMS classes and asynchronous sessions will not be tolerated.
- Students must use their HISD credentials to log into TEAMS and enter the class. If you are not using your HISD account, I will not allow you to enter the class.
- Login credentials must not be shared. This is a good habit to develop now.
- Mute microphones when not speaking.
- Students who are disruptive and will receive appropriate consequences in accordance with HISD’s student code of conduct.