

Talking With Your Child About Normative Culture

How often have you asked your child, “How was school today,” only to hear, “Fine.” You want to know how they have been doing at Randolph Academy, but just don’t know what to ask, and what the answers are you should be hearing from your child.

The language and terminology of Normative Culture can seem strange and confusing to people who are not familiar with it. Students at Randolph Academy speak this language throughout every school day.

Questions To Ask Your Child

By asking your child the following questions, you will learn how your child is doing at school, as well as more about Randolph Academy’s program in general.

A child only has to attend Randolph Academy a short time to know detailed answers to all of these questions. By routinely asking your child questions such as these, you will also find yourself speaking and understanding the Normative Culture language and program.

- What status are you currently? The answer you should receive should be either “rookie,” meaning they are new to the program; “non-pledge,” which is a student who has been in the program a while but is still working towards pledge status; “pledge,” which means they are progressing towards the top status, or “Timber Wolf,” which is the top status a student can achieve within the Normative program.
- What was your latest weekly force-field rating? You should get an answer of either “positive,” which a student earns by doing everything they are expected to do plus doing extras and going above-and-beyond; “on-the-line” which means your child is doing what is expected of them, but not necessarily going above-and-beyond; or “negative,” which means your child has not been following the program’s norms of safety, respect, responsibility, goal-directed behavior, and the classroom is sacred.
- What ratings did your have on your daily tracker sheet today? Your child gets a rating, similar to the above weekly-ratings, for each class period throughout the day on a tracker sheet that follows them from class to class. They should also know what their (positives; on the lines; negatives) were for, and what they did to earn them.
- How is your GGI (Guided Group Interaction) going? All students take part in GGI each morning, where they are expected to take

accountability for their own behavior issues as well as offer constructive, helpful feedback to other group members regarding their issues.

- Are you participating in GGI? Your child is expected to be an active participant in the group, following all group rules, taking honest accountability for their own issues from the previous school day, and offering constructive, helpful feedback to other group members regarding their particular issues.
- Have you been positively confronting others? The school's Normative program is based largely on students confronting other students' negative behaviors and violations of the accepted norms in a positive, helpful manner.
- Have you been avoiding negativity? When problems arise, your child is expected to avoid getting involved in the negativity, and also to confront the individuals acting in the negative manner.
- Which of the five norms have you been doing the best with? (Safety; Respect; Responsibility; Goal-Directed Behavior; The Classroom is Sacred)
- What can you work harder at to earn positive ratings? What do you need to improve at? All students receive constant feedback about their issues from other students, staff, GGI facilitators, etc. Your child should be able to tell you where they've encountered problems, as well as how they can change their behaviors, attitude, and ratings around.
- Have you received any positive write-ups? School staff is expected to write up students for the things they are doing well, or for successes they are having at school, not just when they may have a negative behavior incident. Students should be proud when they receive these positive-type write ups.
- How long before you can be put forward for your pledge? For your Timber Wolf? School staff meets weekly to discuss how each student is progressing. If your child is avoiding negative ratings and write ups, they should be looking towards seeking approval for either their pledge status or Timber Wolf status from their respective academic teams.
- Do you have all your privileges? Your child will earn certain program privileges as they move from "pledge" status to "Timber Wolf" status. Students who earn their status are expected to continue following all norms, earning positive and/or on-the-line ratings, and

above all else, avoiding any negative safety issues which may place either themselves or others at risk. Should your child start to struggle with their behavior or negative attitude, their academic team may decide to pull some of their privileges until they can get themselves back on track.

- (For new Timber Wolves) *When will your Timber Wolf induction be?* Several times per year, all new Timber Wolves go through a formal induction ceremony in which the entire school attends. Family members are also invited to attend these events to help celebrate their child's accomplishments. You should receive a letter or notification letting you know the time and date of the induction ceremony prior to your child's special day, and the we'd love to see you there!

Want More Information, Or Want To Talk To Someone?

Should you have further questions, however, please don't hesitate to call the school or your child's assigned counselor at (716)358-6866.