



ASAP Gender Academy Bear Creek Middle School

In the beginning . . .

- ❖ In the 2018-2019 school year, Mr. Ngubeni and Mrs. Hairston established Advancing Scholars Achieving Perfection (ASAP) in an effort to cultivate leadership in students who had strong potential to lead, but often chose not to lead OR chose to lead in poor ways.
- ❖ Students were inducted into the group and by the end of the year will have done the following
 1. participated in two “high exposure” field trips
 2. led a fundraiser for the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society
 3. participated in a social skills class
 4. served as ambassadors for our local community meetings.



ASAP Gender Academy Bear Creek Middle School

Then . . .

- ❖ In the 2019-2020 school year, Bear Creek Middle School launched a pilot of the ASAP Gender Academy
- ❖ The Bear Creek Middle School gender-based team offered the same high quality educational programs offered in co-educational classes, but provided additional academic skills that assisted in producing higher levels of achievement than what students encounter in a co-educational setting
- ❖ The classes were designed to help develop well-rounded young *ladies* and *gentlemen*, strong students, and effective leaders.
- ❖ The academic program was aligned with Georgia Department of Education's Standards of Excellence and was designed to increase student achievement.
- ❖ Unfortunately, due to Covid-19 some of our plans were left unfulfilled. While, our students were able to show significant improvement in behavior and some mid-year academic improvement, we did were unable to see how our students would have performed on Milestones.



ASAP Gender Academy Bear Creek Middle School

This year . . .

- ❖ In the 2020-2021 school year, Bear Creek Middle School will participate in its second year of the ASAP Gender Academy
- ❖ The Bear Creek Middle School gender-based team will continue to offer the same high quality educational programs offered in co-educational classes while providing additional academic skills that will assist in producing higher levels of achievement than what students encounter in a co-educational setting
- ❖ The classes will continue to help develop well-rounded young *ladies* and *gentlemen*, strong students, and effective leaders.
- ❖ The academic program will be aligned with Georgia Department of Education's Standards of Excellence and is designed to increase student achievement.
- ❖ We will work diligently to stay abreast of changes and remain compliant with district expectations.
- ❖ In light of Covid-19, we will find ways to keep students engaged, provide additional assistance to improve achievement, and be creative in the ways we provide extra-curricular experiences for our students.



ASAP Gender Academy

Bear Creek Middle School

What are the Benefits of Same-sex Classrooms?

Boys

- Reduction in special education placement
- Not subjected to “feminized” classrooms and teachers
- Better mentoring experience
- More controlled social outlet
- Exposed to more high interest reading material

Girls

- Less competition and distraction from boys
- Gains in math and science
- Builds confidence
- Take more positive risks without the fear of being judged
- More outspoken and competitive
- Less teasing from boys



ASAP Gender Academy

Bear Creek Middle School

What are the Pros and Cons of Single-Sex Classrooms?

Pros of Single-Sex Classrooms

- ❖ Teachers can spend extra time with topics that boys or girls may struggle with.
- ❖ Classes can be differentiated by gender.
- ❖ Students may branch out and try new things without the other gender to impress.
- ❖ Discipline problems decrease
- ❖ Academic achievement increases
- ❖ It is inexpensive. Separating the two genders does not require changing walls or hiring more teachers.

Cons of Single-Sex Classrooms

- ❖ Social skills between genders get put on hold.
- ❖ Not all studies show academic improvement.
- ❖ Some feel it is discrimination. The ACLU believes that boys do not learn differently than girls and can lead to unequal education.
- ❖ This theory has not stood the test of time.



ASAP Gender Academy

Bear Creek Middle School

What are the details?

- ❖ For enrolled and selected 8th grade girls & boys of Bear Creek Middle School
- ❖ Designed to maximize student achievement
- ❖ Teachers trained in effective use of gender-specific classroom strategies
- ❖ Effective instruction of all core content areas
- ❖ Academic intervention services for identified students
- ❖ Strong emphasis on character development and the appropriate socialization skills applied throughout the core content areas
- ❖ Separate core academic classes for each gender and core instructional staff for the Academy



ASAP Gender Academy Bear Creek Middle School

What's expected of me as a parent?

- ❖ \$50--\$60 Activity fee per quarter, beginning in September
- ❖ Actively involved in the academic, behavior progress of your child
- ❖ Purchase of uniform items, if necessary
- ❖ Assistance and/or involvement in all fundraising activities for ASAP





ASAP Gender Academy

Bear Creek Middle School

What is expected of my child?

- ❖ Best effort daily
- ❖ Exemplary academic expectations and behavior, **NO EXCUSES!!**
- ❖ Active participation in all activities
- ❖ Active involvement in academic, behavior progress
- ❖ Strong sense of integrity
- ❖ Maintain As and Bs or participation in interventions and/or tutorials toward that effort





ASAP Gender Academy

Bear Creek Middle School

FAQs?

- ❖ Where do the fees go?
 - ❖ Fees pay for specific materials and activities that are unique to ASAP students.
- ❖ Why the uniforms? One Location?
 - ❖ Major uniform items will only be required when we become fully face to face. Until then, students will wear the shirt provided upon acceptance and enrollment to the program.
- ❖ What is the process/grounds for removing an ASAP Scholar?
 - ❖ This is an individual process. More details will be provided in the parent handbook upon acceptance and enrollment to the program.
- ❖ Why is the program so rigorous/strict?
 - ❖ It is designed cultivate and groom leaders. As leaders, students must be able to confidently face various challenges. Our rigor helps prepare students for that process.

