



MEET



Teacher Assistant, Academic Academy

TERRY JANMEY

How long have you have been with Westlake City Schools?

I've been with the District for 21 years including 16 years with the Intermediate Schools.

What is Academic Academy?

It's a program that DIS started this school year that's designed to help students with classwork – any missing assignments or even their daily work. Students are invited to come Monday – Thursday after school, and there are several aides who help the students with their work. We actually are able to go over the work with them and we try to encourage them in completing any assignments they have.

We typically see about 20 students on average. They come in after school and we have lunch until about 1:30. We get right to work after lunch, and they have a solid hour or so of work until about 2:45. We'll even provide a lunch if they don't have one. They're separated and we follow COVID protocols and social distancing, so it's very safe.

Are students able to contact teachers if needed?

The teachers keep their office hours, so if a student needs to contact them, they're able to log onto the teacher's office hours. We try to help when we can and work with them one-on-one and even give them the positive reinforcement they need to finish.

The students must appreciate the one-on-one aspect of the Academic Academy.

They do. It's really the one time when we get to connect with them, work with them, give them that one-on-one attention and positive feedback.

In what ways have you seen this program help students?

Well first, they get their assignments completed. More importantly, their grades are going up. Hopefully we can keep this going even after we go back to our normal schedule. It may be difficult because right now the kids leave at 1:05 and we're here till 3:00, so it makes sense. I don't know what will happen when the kids go back to leaving at 2:45.

What are some of your favorite things about what you do?

Personally, I love working with the students and helping them learn the concepts of what they're working on. It's so fulfilling to see them "get it" and how that propels them forward. I've been really fortunate to be in the classrooms with them and getting to help them one-on-one.

The Academic Academy is a really great program, and the teachers do a really great job of recommending students. We're really trying to help the students complete their work, and I think the experience is invaluable for them.