



Grade Expectations

These are general expectations for students at Big Picture schools. Every student learns and grows at his or her own pace – the important thing is for students to show growth in each area. It is up to the advisor and Learning Plan team to determine these expectations based on the needs of each student.

Big Picture 101

During the first year, 9th grade students are expected to:

- Follow their interests in the real world (informational interviews, shadow days, and LTIs).
- Obtain an LTI in the first semester.
- Have a positive impact on the community (service learning, etc.).
- Meet with the full Learning Plan team at least four times a year.
- Reflect on gaps in their learning and address them through project work.
- Create at least four Learning Plans during the year.
- Complete the work in their Learning Plans.
- Build a portfolio of work online and save hard copies in their working portfolio and portfolio box.
- Exhibit their work publicly four times a year.
- Write in their journals three times per week.
- Schedule their Supercalendar every week.
- Come to school each day on time.
- Be responsible for their locations and actions.
- Show respect for others and themselves.
- Take responsibility for the learning process.
- Take advantage of opportunities and make summer plans.
- Take part in mediations if conflicts arise.
- Prepare for any state assessments.



**Priorities for Advisors
for the First Year:**

- Develop a community with the advisory and school as a whole.
- Know each student and family well both personally and academically.
- Develop relationships with students, mentors and family.
- Understand the baseline of skills students have so that future goals are realistic and data driven.
- Develop a culture of respect and responsibility.
- Help students identify their passions/interests.
- Help students to take responsibility for their own learning.
- Foster a culture of documentation – help them build portfolios.
- Write a 9th grade transcript in the spring.

**Priorities for Principals
for the First Year:**

- Prepare 9th grade advisors (especially new advisors) for their work through a well-planned summer orientation.
- Focus intensively on 9th grade students and advisors during the first quarter.
- Help advisors schedule the days in the first month of school so that 9th grade advisories have many different activities planned.
- Develop teamwork and trust among advisors so that 9th grade advisors get support from their colleagues.
- (After the first year of the school.) Schedule pairings of rookie advisors and veteran advisors to go to shadow days, Learning Plan meetings, LTI set-up meetings, and exhibitions together.
- Do mediations with 9th grade students to set the culture and tone of the school.

