

A DAY IN THE LIFE

Raising Expectations believes in the importance of creating an environment where academic excellence is lauded and raising the bar of excellence is expected. Therefore, every afternoon, our students are greeted at the door and encouraged to share their day's events with the goal of resetting any negative emotional energy from that of the school day or from their home lives. Upon receiving their initial greeting from their mentors and staff, they sign in by scanning their RE ID card. The academy's site space is divided into 5 distinct learning environments amongst a suite of classrooms. Each learning environment is assigned a Family of children (**Family 1:** 4th-5th grades, **Family 2:** 6th grade, **Family 3:** 7th grade, etc.) After scanning in, each child retrieves their weekly portfolio and returns to the designated area assigned to their Family. On average, Raising Expectations has 20 volunteers that work to support each Family.

Each RE child participates in two hours of tutoring and academic support 3 days per week for 2.5 hours. Every academic tutorial day (M, W and Th) is guided by a daily schedule that contains pre-planned academic learning blocks led by the staff and mentors/tutors. The learning blocks are inclusive of activities such as Do Now Activities, Homework/Project Completion, PLATO PLE instruction, DEAR (Drop Everything And Read) just to name a few. Each aforementioned block work synergistically together to ensure the academic focus maintained throughout the day. For example, during the PLATO PLE instruction time, students work on deficient skills needed to perform well on the CRCT. Each student is given an individual assessment that evaluates what learning strands they have or have not mastered. These strands are aligned with Georgia Performance Standards. After their assessment, a learning prescription is assigned that includes animated lessons that tutor students on how to improve in that particular area. At the Plato Lab, RE students not only work online with the tutorial, but they also have a tutor that works through the assignments with him/her offering another layer of academic support. All hours spent working on Plato assignments are noted into the Plato Log—clearly identifying the goals for the day and areas focused on during tutoring.

Tuesdays and Fridays are designated as enrichment days. Students are assigned to non-traditional activities that range from yoga, swimming and fitness classes to healthy eating, dance, etiquette, art and much more. Enrichment days serve a dual purpose: to strengthen the mentoring relationship between the students and their mentors as they participate in the assigned activity together and the activity itself is typically one that students are experiencing for the first time.

