

Jeffrey Greene

Wiggins Middle School: Fall Semester, 2017

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Educational Philosophy

My educational philosophy is to teach students not just to know, but to teach students to do. What I mean by that is to say that teachers must acknowledge how students learn in digital environments and must also acknowledge what relevant skills are important for students to master in order to be prepared for higher education and/or the work place. With our unprecedented access to information by way of various digital platforms, simply memorizing facts is less of a priority than teaching students how to view, construct, interpret and analyze information in order to form opinions and build conclusions about the world around us.

You are responsible for your own learning!

You are responsible for your own learning. What that means is that you must arrive to class on-time, and ready to learn. Bring the materials that you will need; bring your own paper, notebooks, and pens. If you need to complete a project that requires special supplies, like markers or colored pencils, you should plan to bring your own. I have a few items to borrow if necessary, but my supplies are limited. If you are able, please bring your own supplies.

If I give an assignment or a project, there will be a deadline. You are responsible for managing your time appropriately to complete your tasks on or before the deadline. If you do not complete your work on time, the consequences are your own. If there is difficulty in meeting your deadline, you must let me know ahead of time. You will have opportunities for independent study time. If you use your time wisely, you can get a lot of work done. If you use your independent time for “other-than-academic” activity (talking with your friends, playing games, etc.) then you must make up your work on your own time.

There will be times when obstacles to your learning, like illness or emergencies, cannot be avoided. It happens to everyone from time to time. However, you are responsible to come up with solutions to overcome those obstacles. Please let me know if you need help or special consideration before the deadline. We will work together to come up with a plan to help you meet the deadline, but if needed under extreme circumstances, I can consider extending the deadline.

THINK before you speak!

The Founding Fathers guaranteed your right to free speech through the 1st Amendment to the United States Constitution. However, the same group of people, through the 5th Amendment to the United States Constitution also guaranteed your right to remain silent. What this means, is that just because you have the freedom to say what is on your mind, the Founding Fathers, in their wisdom, know that you don't always have to.

As a guideline, I expect my students to *THINK* before they speak. In other words, think about what you have to say:

Is it:

TTrue
HHelpful
IIntelligent
NNecessary
KKind

If what you have to say doesn't pass the *THINK* test, then you may want to keep it to yourself.

Character Guidelines

TRUST: Tell the truth. Keep your promises.

LOYALTY: Stay true to your friends, family, school and community. Stay true to yourself and never compromise your values.

HELPFULNESS: Help others at all times.

FRIENDLINESS: Honor and defend your friends. Be friendly to others at all times.

COURTESY: Good manners will take you a long way in life.

KINDNESS: Be compassionate and gentle with others.

OBEDIENCE: Follow instructions. Do what you are told the first time.

CHEERFULNESS: Be cheerful and have a good attitude

THRIFT: Conserve and wisely use your resources. Avoid being wasteful

BRAVERY: Take risks. Be brave enough to do the right thing. Stand up for justice.

CLEANLINESS: Keep your area clean. Pick up your litter. Take pride in your school. Keep clean also in thought and deed.

RESPECT: Respect others and their differences.

Mind Your Own Business

If you are doing what you are supposed to do when you are supposed to do it, others will follow your examples. Keep your conduct up to an appropriate standard. Let me worry about the troublemakers.

What to Expect

WEEKLY SCHEDULE:

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
“One-Day”	“Talking-Ball”	“What’s-Up.”	Assignments Due/Assessments.	“Fallacy-Friday”
New material will be introduced on Monday. Also, students have the opportunity to meet with Mr. Greene one-on-one to discuss grades and concerns regarding the student’s academic success.	Talking Ball is our group discussion activity. Students will discuss questions related to the topics that are studied in class.	“What’s-Up Wednesday” is our weekly current events activity. Students must be prepared to submit a current event every week related to the topics that are studied in class.	Projects are due on Thursday. Also, if needed, there will be assessments scheduled on Thursdays (tests or quizzes).	“Fallacy-Friday” is our weekly activity that relates to logic and critical thinking. Students will be shown valid arguments and fallacies in logic and will have opportunities to practice critical thinking and problem solving.

SCHEDULED LESSONS FOR THE SEMESTER.

WEEK OF:	10 TH GRADE US HISTORY	11 TH GRADE AMERICAN GOVERNMENT & CIVICS	12 TH GRADE WORLD CIVILIZATIONS	12 TH GRADE SOCIOLOGY
8/21-8/25	Post-Civil War/ Reconstruction	Principles of Government	Tools of History	The Sociological Perspective
8/28-9/1	The American West	Origins and Foundations of American Government	Earliest Human Societies	Sociological Investigation
9/5-9/8	The Second Industrial Revolution	The United States Constitution	Ancient Mesopotamia	Culture
9/11-9/15	REVIEWS/ MIDTERMS	REVIEWS/ MIDTERMS	REVIEWS/ MIDTERMS	REVIEWS/ MIDTERMS
9/18-9/21	Turn of the 20 th Century	Federalism	Early Empires and the Fertile Crescent	Society
9/25-9/29	The Progressives	Political Parties	Persian Control of Southwest Asia	Socialization
10/2-10/6	Entering the World Stage and American Imperialism	Voters and Voter Behavior	Ancient Egypt	Social Interactions in Everyday Life
10/9-10/12	World War I	The Electoral Process	Nubia, Kush and other African Kingdoms	Groups and Organizations
10/16-10/19	Post War America, transitioning back to peace.	Mass Media and Public Opinion	Ancient India	Sexuality and Society
10/23-10/27	The Roaring Twenties	Interest Groups	Ancient China	Deviance
10/30-11/3	The 1930's and the Great Depression	Congress	Ancient America	Social Stratification
11/6-11/10	REVIEWS/ MIDTERMS	REVIEWS/ MIDTERMS	REVIEWS/ MIDTERMS	REVIEWS/ MIDTERMS
11/13-11/21	The New Deal and Recovery during the FDR years.	Powers of Congress	The Hebrew kingdoms and Jewish diaspora	Social Class in the United States
11/27-12/1	World War II	Congress in Action	Ancient Greece	Global Stratification
12/4-12/8	Post War, Cold War and 21 st Century Threats	Mock Congress	Classical Greece	Gender Stratification
12/11-12/18	REVIEWS/ FINALS	REVIEWS/ FINALS	REVIEWS/ FINALS	REVIEWS/ FINALS

Classroom Conduct and Discipline.

You are expected to listen politely and participate actively. What this means is that you must not talk while the teacher or classmates are giving presentations and you must remain seated. If you create distraction or disruption, you will be subject to discipline.

Snacks in the classroom are a privilege. The privilege must be earned. If litter is left behind, the privilege of having snacks will be revoked.

Choosing your own seat is also a privilege. The privilege must be earned. If the classroom environment does not support effective learning, seats will be assigned until the classroom environment improves.

Discipline:

If there is a problem. It will be brought to your attention. You will be expected to correct the problem.

If the problem continues, I will solve the problem for you.

If the problem continues, it will be brought to the attention of your parents and I will seek their assistance in correcting the problem.

If the problem continues, I will seek the assistance of school administration to help correct the problem. Consequences may include detention, suspension or expulsion.

It's an Honor to Work with You!

My job is your success, please keep in touch either by phone, text, email or in person if there is anything I can to help you be the best student you can!