

Mr. Schucker's Course Expectations
Enrichment ("Street Smarts/Violence Prevention") – 8th grade

I. COURSE SCOPE

A. Course Description

This fantastic information-filled semester-long course for eighth grade students reinforces the development of good health and violence prevention, anti-bullying prevention practices, and discussions on college preparation while following and reviewing and utilizing Health, Math, Science, Geography, & ELA standards and traits. This course emphasizes an interactive approach in which students construct meaning from the lectures and handouts on topics such as bullying/harassment, alcohol/tobacco/drugs, college prep/life skills, gangs and law consequences, etc.... The course foci is on students utilizing vocabulary, thought processes, and strategies to becoming an all around healthier and more controlled, mature, and responsible person.

B. Textbook/Materials

A variety of textbooks, novels, magazine articles, and handouts will be used in addition to supplementary materials and note taking is expected. Students are expected to bring some sort of silent reading material, a pen or pencil, paper, Interactive Notebook, and a three ring binder daily to class. Some textbooks we will be utilizing will be Play by the Rules, College Education, and Bullying Information.

C. Unit of Study / Course Goals

1. To know and use word analysis skills and strategies to strengthen vocabulary and increase comprehension.
2. To read to understand, interpret, and analyze text.
3. To learn how to positively interact with peers and adults.
4. To apply effective information acquisition and research strategies.
5. To develop an overall healthier & violent free lifestyle.
6. To start thinking about their educational and adult future.

D. Course Academic Schedule by Quarter

Quarter 1: Positive peer interaction, eating disorders, identity theft/credit information, bullying/harassment information, how to get along with others in a positive atmosphere and manner (Play by the Rules and Bullying Information textbook, and the novel, Freak the Mighty will be used). Drugs: signs and symptoms of use and abuse information (illegal and legal) (Play by the Rules textbook used).

Quarter 2: College preparation, job awareness, real-life job application skills, and career outlooks and information. Gangs: Involvement, information, consequences, juvenile and adult law information (Play by the Rules and College Education, textbooks used). Gangs: Involvement, information, consequences, juvenile and adult law information (The novel We Beat the Street, Play by the Rules textbook used).

E. Course Projects & Criterion Online Writing

Projects/reports may be required of every student. Students will be notified as to the scope and requirements of the project at least one-two weeks in advance. Also, students may be going to the computer lab or utilizing the iPad carts often to work research and on the district adopted writing program called Criterion Online Writing. This is a fantastic writing program that the students can access in school or at home (wherever they have internet connection) that will help boost their writing traits and abilities.

II. STUDENT ASSISTANCE/HOURS OF AVAILABILITY

- A. The 8th grade teachers will be available each morning from 8:20-8:50 a.m. and for ten minutes after school. Students are asked to make appointments in advance in order to insure ample time and attention. If a conflict occurs that alters our schedule, students will be notified.
- B. You may also find information about me or the school on the Leavitt website (<http://schools.ccsd.net/leavitt>) .
- C. Parent contact, if need be, will be done through one or more of the following: 1) Infinite Campus Portal Information page (<http://www.ccsd.net/parents/infinite-campus.php>), 2) Remind 101 Text Message site (<http://remind.com/join/adaa2>) and the sign up phone number is **(81010)**; enter the code: **@d2hk47** in the message area and hit send (you will receive a confirmation text message) OR you can go to your browser and type in the following address: **rmd.at/d2hk47** and complete the instructions given, 3) phone calls home, 4) messages in student agenda, or 5) via e-mail (**Google email: schucrp@nv.ccsd.net**). I also have a Google Classroom site as well and if you go to classroom.google.com and punch in your period's code, which is: **6th period = bwysc6**.
- D. We will be utilizing the NV Into Careers website for the student college and job information/benefit (<http://www.careeronestop.org>) and the login and password is **Nevada** for both and is case sensitive. Then you just put in Las Vegas and your zip code. It is a great, free, useful site!!
- E. Informational reading may be assigned for homework/enrichment by utilizing the Review Journal FREE following website: <http://www.nieteacher.org/lvrjnie>

III. GRADING POLICY

A. Grading Scale

A = 90-100%	Excellent achievement
B = 80-89%	Above average achievement
C = 70-79%	Average achievement
D = 60-69%	Below average achievement
F = <60%	Failure to meet accepted minimal standard of achievement.

B. Grading Procedures

1. Grades will be based upon participation, attendance, and assignment completion.
2. Grades will be finalized on a point only system, not by weight. **For example, if there are 35 assignments that equal up to 650 total points possible and a student gets 550 out of the 650 possible, his/her grade would average out to a 84% or "B". THIS MEANS THAT ALL TESTS, HOMEWORK, PROJECTS, AND CLASSWORK ARE GRADED WITH THE SAME UNIVERSAL EVEN POINT SYSTEM.**
3. If you should see an "M" in a box for an assignment, this means that that particular assignment is missing. This could be due to an absence or just not completing the work. Only absences will erase the "MI" symbol when the work is turned in. **An "M" has the same value as a "0" in the gradebook.**
4. Absenteeism can have a negative impact on the student's grade.
5. Students will be expected to participate in class discussions and collaborative learning activities.
6. Students will maintain an interactive notebook and section in a pre-existing notebook for this class. The notebook will contain material distributed or returned by the teacher, class notes, and other review material. It will be used as a study tool and as a resource. Notebook checks will be done to verify that each student is maintaining his/her notebook in an organized manner.
7. The purpose of homework is to extend/enrich a classroom activity and to help master the material being studied. Assignments are to be handed in on time, neatly, readable, and to the best of the students ability; no exceptions unless of

emergency situations arise. If not handed in on time, an “M” symbol will be entered into the grade book and will result as a “0” until turned in. If you are absent, then we will follow the absent late work rule assigned by the CCSD policy (See section “E”).

C. Basis for Semester Grades

Semester grades will include the mid-term and the final exam. Each of these exams will count as twenty percent of the final grade while the two quarters will count as forty percent of the final grade. Class work and writing logs will constitute the major portion of quarterly grades.

D. Standard of Preparation

1. Student work needs to be done completely, correctly, and neatly. Students must review work for correct spelling, grammar, and usage. Assignments will also be neatly organized and written or they will not be accepted.
2. A minor deal of emphasis is placed on the allocation of time for reading and writing in the classroom. Students are expected to bring silent reading materials to class each day. They should choose materials that they are interested in reading. It can include comic books, chapter books (fiction or non fiction), newspapers or magazines. The material cannot be a textbook from another class or an “ordering” magazine. After reading, the student will be keeping a daily Reading Log journal (and possibly a Thought Provoking Journal Log) to practice their summary and explanatory writing skills. Even though this is a “Street Smarts/Violence Prevention” class I still want the students to integrate writing for Proficiency practice. Their Reading Log (and possibly a Thought Provoking Journal Log) is/are due every two weeks and is to be maintained even during an absence.

E. Partial Assignment Credit Information

1. If a student chooses not to finish the assignment given, only partial credit will be given for the work achieved. If the student then wants to finish his/her work for a better grade, he/she will be allowed **THREE (3)** extra days late for Quarter 1, **TWO (2)** days late for Quarter 2, and **ONE (1)** day late for Quarter 3 to turn in their completed work for partial (1 letter grade decrease) credit of the grade they receive on the item per day (1 day late = 10% off the grade earned, 2 days late = 20% off the grade earned, and 3 days late = 30% off the grade earned. These three days will be known as a type of grace period/amnesty day. If the student does not re-do the work and turn it in on the one-day-late grace period, the assignment(s) will not be taken the rest of the quarter, semester, or year. **For the 4th quarter, to get the students ready for the high school rigor, NO LATE WORK will be excepted unless due to an absence.**

*****NO EXTRA CREDIT IS GIVEN.*****

F. Make-up Procedures (Regulation 5113.3)

It is the student’s responsibility to obtain and complete missed assignments. Make-up work will be available for **three days** upon an absence. Then the student has **three days** to work on and turn in their assignments from the pick up date. Class time will not be used to review make-up work; however, students may make an after school appointment if extra instruction is required. Students have three days to complete make-up work unless other arrangements have been made. Also, students must present a pass to the line monitor for morning assistance in any teacher’s classroom.

IV. CLASSROOM BEHAVIORAL EXPECTATIONS

A. Explanation and Procedure

All Leavitt Middle School guidelines, rules, and regulations for behavior will be followed in the classroom.

1. Follow directions.
2. Be prepared and on time with all necessary materials.
3. Enter and leave the classroom in an orderly manner.
4. Respect the property and rights of others.
5. Restroom breaks are to be kept to an emergency need only and will only be signed out with the student's own agenda (not a friend's).
6. Internet access will be allowed only with the parent permission form signed and turned into the school.
7. Parent communication can be done by phone contact, e-mail, agenda messages, Edmodo, Remind 101, and/or Infinite Campus Portal access. Infinite Campus Portal is very much encouraged to see students' progress and there is an app for IOS7 and Android technology.
8. No food, gum, or nuisance items are allowed.
9. According to **Regulation 5136**, it states that "The use of cell phones, beepers, pagers, or any other electronic communication devices is prohibited on all district school campuses during the instructional day. As long as use is not disruptive, students may use these devices during scheduled lunch periods and while on the bus. These devices must **remain off** during instructional time including any time between classes." *****In my class, students will be required to put their phone in a safe and secure Cell Phone Pocket Chart as soon as they enter class and may retrieve their phone on upon leaving the class.*****

If students do not follow behavior expectations, it will result in one or all of the following: a decreased citizenship grade, a teacher/student conference, detention, parental notification (3 attempts), a teacher/student/parent conference, or referral to counselor or dean.

B. Daily Materials

The following items will be required on a daily basis:

1. Leavitt Middle School Agenda/Planner
2. Three ring notebook / binder (or a section in a bigger binder just for Explorations 8)
3. 5 notebook dividers (section dividers)
4. Composition notebook/"Interactive Notebook" (required) and loose leaf notebook paper.
5. Blue or black pens, pencils, yellow highlight marker, colored pencils or markers. **NO GEL PENS!!!**
6. Sustained silent reading book, magazine, newspaper or comic book
7. Daily Reading and/or Thought Provoking Journal Logs (if used)
8. Red or green correction pen
9. Ruler & Calculator

C. Additional Information

1. Unexcused tardiness will result in a decreased citizenship grade and/or intervention by the dean. A half hour tardy is the equivalent of an absence.
2. Corridor and restroom passes will be issued only in emergency situations.
3. Food, drink, gum, and candy are not permitted in the classroom.
4. School property must be treated respectfully at all times.
5. *****I may be educating an after school/evening classes/course that will be offered to parents/guardians or family members per quarter/semester as a type of knowledge based information over the sensitive topics that the students will be going over. I personally feel this can and will be a great**

benefit for parents/guardians and family members to attend and gain knowledge of what is going on in the world as well.***

V. CITIZENSHIP

Citizenship grades are based on both conduct and academic effort. Behavior citations will be issued to students when behavior deviates from acceptable classroom expectations or when class work is not turned in on time.

Outstanding citizens are positive role models. They display leadership qualities and consistently maintain and respect behavior, classroom, and school guidelines. They consistently complete assigned work and participate in class. These students will receive an “O” in citizenship.

Satisfactory citizens accept most personal responsibilities. They generally exhibit behavior and attitudes within the guidelines. These students will receive an “S” in citizenship.

Needs Improvement or Unsatisfactory citizens display attitudes and actions that have a negative effect on the learning environment and peer relationships. These students will receive an “N” or “U” in citizenship and may be excluded from participating in certain school sponsored clubs and activities.

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Here at Leavitt, we are planning to take field trips the Downtown Detention Center (D.D.C.) so the kids can get a “birds-eye-view” of what life may be like if ever sent to jail. It was a huge success last year and is a great way to prevent outcomes from happening in our youth’s future and a great way to work closely with Metro. This will be a very educational and serious field trip so please make sure that if you let your child attend this experience that you also let your child know how to act in such an environment. The field trip dates will be throughout the school year (we will be taking the classes one period at a time/date). Your child will let you know what specific date their class will be going once the dates are confirmed by the Lieutenant at the facility. The time of the field trip will be from 9:15-12:30 and your child will be responsible for any and all work they will miss during their morning classes. Other field trips may be taking place as well such as hopefully going to the Mob Museum (during the time the Gang thematic unit is being covered) and the Coroner’s Office.

Now, all of these trips cost \$\$\$ to rent the buses for transportation and we need/am asking for a small amount of money from each student in order to make these wonderful trip experiences happen. I am asking for each student to contribute a minimum of \$10.00 for the bus transportation, and if you could donate more, it would be very much appreciated. If you want your child to be a part of these influential life learning experiences, please send your money with your child to class as soon as possible (at least before we go on the first field trip) so we can get these trips planned and ready to go. A receipt will be given out to you as a donation for which you can utilize as seen fit.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me, Mr. Schucker, at Leavitt Middle School via phone (702-799-4699) or email (schucrp@nv.ccsd.net), and I will be happy to return your message.

Thank you for your continued dedication and support.

Leavitt Middle School “Street-Smarts/Violence Prevention” education program.

Student Name: _____

Student I.D. #: _____ Student date of birth: _____

Please sign on one of the following lines below:

_____ I, the parent/guardian **ALLOW** my child to go on the Jail tour.

_____ I, the parent/guardian **DO NOT** allow my child to go on the Jail tour.