

## **Room 23 MMS 2015-2016 Syllabus**

**Mr. Roe**

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### **Welcome**

I am extremely excited to begin another school year! I would like to take a moment to welcome you and your family to our learning community. You are about to step into a class that is full of high expectations, fun lessons, and tradition. Above all else, you, the student, is placed first. You are now part of a family that stresses both academic and social excellence. As the year progresses, you will understand what this means. For now, welcome! I am both excited and honored to be your teacher this year.

### **Background**

Before I tell you who I am, and what I do, I would like to take a moment to tell you why I do what I do. I LOVE to teach. I truly do. As I will often remind you, I knew I wanted to be a teacher since the 6th grade. When I am teaching, there is nothing else I would rather do, and nowhere else I would rather be. For me, education, and more specifically, teaching, is my art. It is my hobby. It is my passion. You will see this come to life in the classroom, whether it is through the outrageous lessons, or the sincere value I place on your individual growth as I push you to be a better person both within and outside of our classroom. I expect much of you because I truly believe that you are capable of more than you may realize.

This will be my 5th year teaching at MMS. My first year, I taught 6th ELA and SS (English and Social Studies). The past four years, I taught 7th ELA and SS, as well as ELD (English Language Development). This year I have taken on both leadership and ASB at Monroe. During the summer, I am the director of an innovation camp in San Jose, called Galileo Learning. I grew up in San Jose, and went to Santa Clara High School. After high school, I went to college at UCSD (San Diego). After receiving my B.A., I moved to Asia, specifically South Korea, where I taught English. After I returned home, I served in the military (Army). I continued with my education, and received my M.A. of Teaching from USC (University of Southern California). Recently, I completed both the Santa Clara County Office of Education administrator program, and the nationally recognized leading digital educator program. Currently, I am completing my second semester of my EdD (Doctorate of Education) in OCL (Organizational Change and Leadership) while I continue to teach. This year, you will see me serve as one the cross country and basketball coaches, as well as the 7th grade ELA and SS lead teacher. This

is a lot about me...don't worry, you will have the chance to tell me about yourself as well. I look forward to it. :)

## **Expectations**

I have very, very high expectations of you as a student. Personally, it is about the effort and attitude more than the final product. I want you to focus on your growth as a scholar and a community member. I am more concerned with molding your understanding of the learning process than with marking you down because you do not know something. Thus, if you try your best, work hard for me and yourself, and maintain a positive attitude, you will succeed.

In turn, I will work hard for you. I will go above and beyond to make sure that you are receiving the support you need. I will treat you with respect. Most importantly, I will provide you with both the academic and the social education you should expect.

## **Classroom Management**

We don't write referrals. We take care of our business as a learning community. We succeed together, or we fail together. I hold each student accountable for their individual actions, and I also hold the class as a whole accountable for the actions of the individual. It is our responsibility to make sure that we are all respecting and guiding each other to do the right thing. While I hope that you will do your best to make prudent decisions, I cannot control what you do outside of my room. Above all else, I believe in positive reinforcement. I will let you know when you are doing the right thing. I will verbally praise you and your classmates.

With that said, we all make mistakes, myself included. We have bad days, and can act impulsively without much foresight. I get it. That is why I offer you the opportunity to correct your behavior immediately. You may walk into our class, and see a student doing push-ups, sit-ups, squats, etc., in the back of the room. Where did I learn this from? It wasn't the military. It was my 6th Grade social studies teacher, Mr. O'lenak. Because of him, we learned discipline, teamwork, and were sent the message that if we were willing to acknowledge our mistakes, we could become stronger from them, both mentally and physically. I never demand this, or require it. I offer it as an alternative to other more banal (and in my opinion, far less effective) alternative consequences. Yet, I have never had one student say they didn't appreciate this opportunity. The ultimate goal is to keep students in the learning environment, with minimal distractions, so that we can progress as a team.

## **CURRICULUM**

This year, we will pilot two curriculums for ELA: HM and Amplify. Both have online technological components. In January, the district ELA teachers will vote on one curriculum to move forward with. I will update you as that process continues.

### **Social Studies Topics**

Rome-Byzantium  
Medieval Europe  
Islam  
West Africa  
Japan  
China  
The Americas  
Renaissance

### **ELA Standards**

These links will provide you with a detailed lists of the 7th ELA Common Core State Standards for your reference:

#### **Reading Literature**

<http://www.corestandards.org/ELA-Literacy/RL/7/>

#### **Reading Informational Text**

<http://www.corestandards.org/ELA-Literacy/RI/7/>

#### **Speaking and Listening**

<http://www.corestandards.org/ELA-Literacy/SL/7/>

#### **Language Conventions**

<http://www.corestandards.org/ELA-Literacy/L/7/>

## **Writing**

<http://www.corestandards.org/ELA-Literacy/W/7/>

## **Novels**

\*This year, we will engage with the following novels:

A Long Walk to Water

The Giver

I am Malala

The Outsiders

In addition, you will read many, many articles as well as other novels in smaller group settings.

## **Skills/Strategies**

\*You will leave my class with a deep understanding of these skills and strategies, and how to apply them. It is my goal to teach you how to learn, not what to learn. I am bound by the CCSS to teach you certain standards and civilizations, and I do that through teaching you these skills and strategies. The ultimate goal is that you can take what you learn here, and apply it to any other learning task so that you can be successful. If you can do that (and you will), you will become an independent learner. You may not understand what self-efficacy is just yet, but by June, you will!

### AVID

Numbering Paragraphs

Marking the Text

Writing in the Margins

Chunking

Citing Text

Philosophical Chairs

Socratic Seminars

Step Up to Writing

Writing Structure

Types of Evidence

Conventions/Organization/Syntax

GLAD

Cognitive Content Dictionary (CCD)

Sentence Patterning Charts

Process Grids

Pictorial Inputs

Graphic Organizers

Poems, Poetry

Big Books/Important Books

Literacy Reinforcers

Mind Maps

Expert Groups

## Important Resources

We have a class website, [teacheranthoney.com](http://teacheranthoney.com). There is a lot of information on this website, including information we covered in class. Many students use this as a resource to study for quizzes, complete homework assignments, and simply to watch interesting videos or play fun games about the topics we are studying. It is constantly being updated and revised. You will receive logins and more information about the other websites listed below within the first few weeks of school.

In addition, we will use:

\*See Mr. Roe for class codes and fill in during class

	URL	Core 1 Code	Core 2 Code	Leadership Code	Purpose
Newsela	<a href="http://newsela.com">newsela.com</a>				Students can read engaging informational text, and change the lexile (difficulty) level as they see fit
Google Classroom	<a href="http://classroom.google.com">classroom.google.com</a>  *Student will need their district server login to access				Sharing of resources tool

Plus other online sources

\*I allow and encourage students to use their electronic devices, including phones, in class. As adults, we use them on a daily basis. They are a tool, and you should learn to view them as such (in addition to their social functions). If you are using your personal device in class, then I expect you to be on topic, engaged, and using it with the aim to enrich and guide your learning. I will not tolerate texting, social media, or games being played in class. In the past, our students have proven to be very responsible with their devices, and I have the same expectations for you.

## **Assessments**

You will be assessed in a variety of formal and informal ways. I will list the main formal assessment you can expect this year. Remember, I want to create a low effective filter for you (which simply means I don't want you to stress or feel like you can't do these assignments). If you recall our expectations from above, you will remember that as long as you try your best, show progress, and maintain a positive attitude, you will do well in our class.

Vocabulary Quizzes  
SS Quizzes  
SS Units Tests  
SS Foldables/Notebooks  
SS Projects  
Research Projects  
Writing Tasks  
Student-Teacher Evaluations

I-Ready Diagnostics  
SBAC Testing (Common Core Testing)  
Performance Tasks (Writing)

## **Policy on Test Retakes**

I do not offer test retakes. If you are absent on test/quiz days, you have until the Wednesday of the following week to complete the assessment. You **MUST** come in during your own time (recess/lunch), or schedule a time to meet in my room after school. There are no exceptions to this.

However, if you score low on an assessment, and you would like another opportunity for a higher grade, I will allow you to complete a separate project which will take the place of your test grade. The goal is that you can demonstrate content and skill mastery. If you can show that to me in another format, then you will have the opportunity to do so.

## **Grades**

I will update grades every week. It is your responsibility to monitor your grades, and communicate with me if you feel there is a mistake. I will always work with you to be

solution-oriented. As long as you are proactive and communicate well, any issues you may have can be worked out, so don't stress! Ever! In addition, there is always the opportunity for extra credit. We will cover this in the first week of class.

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I have read and understand the information presented within this syllabus.

Student's Name:

Parent/Guardian's Name:

Contact Number:

E-mail:

Signature:

Signature:

Let's have a great year, and remember to be awesome!