**Syllabus**

**Foundational Knowledge**

**Science, Social Studies, People Skills**

**2014-2015**

PRIMARY INSTRUCTOR: Mr. McDevan Carling

SECONDARY INSTRUCTOR: Mrs. Ina Moriconi

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CLASS WEBSITE: http://mcdevan.weebly.com

SPECTRUM PHONE: 801-936-0318

Spectrum Academy Middle School

Home of the Timberwolves

www.spectrumcharter.org

*This handbook will outline classroom policies and procedures for Mr. McDevan’s classroom.  If you have questions or concerns, please feel free to contact us via e-mail or schedule an appointment to meet in person at any time.*

School Hours:  School begins promptly at 8:40 a.m. and ends at 3:25 p.m.  On Fridays, our hours are 8:40 a.m. to 1:45 p.m.

Course Expectations: The Foundational Knowledge track is designed to give students the basic knowledge necessary to allow them to participate in social and occupational settings. The skills and topic covered will allow students to transition into occupational study courses.

For each course, students will be graded according to their participation and mastery of content.

**Note: The expectation for students enrolled in this course is that they will transition into the workplace upon high school graduation. Placement is generally reserved for students preforming 2 or more grade levels below current grade. Please request a meeting with administrative officials if you are concerned about your student’s placement in this course.**

Attendance & Tardiness: A successful school experience is the responsibility of the student, the parent, and the school. Your student’s progress, both academically and socially, is influenced by regular attendance without tardiness. Tardiness and excess absences will affect your student’s grades and citizenship report\*.

\*Please see the Attendance Policy in your student’s handbook.

Unexcused Absences: If a student has 3 to 5 unexcused absences, an N will be earned. If a student has 6 or more unexcused absences, a U will be earned. Every 3 tardies will count as 1 unexcused absence for the purpose of determining citizenship grades.

Citizenship Policy: Each student’s citizenship grade is based on behavior and unexcused absences. Possible citizenship grades are as follows:

H: Honors

S: Satisfactory

N: Needs Improvement

U: Unsatisfactory

Grading: The majority of grading for my classes will be based upon (1) regular participation and (2) an effort to by the student to improve academic knowledge and show progress.

Grading Scale:

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| A | 95 – 100%\*\*Your student’s progress in each course, including grades, will be available for you to monitor at the following link [**http://compass.spectrumcharter.org**](http://compass.spectrumcharter.org/)**.**  Please take an active roll in your student’s education at Spectrum. Together, we can do great things! Parent conferences are scheduled for each midterm. Should you have any concerns regarding your student’s grade, please contact Mr. McDevan to set up a conference. I will always make time to meet with you, as often as needed. |
| A- | 90 – 94% |
| B | 85 – 89% |
| B- | 80 – 84% |
| C | 75 – 79% |
| C- | 70 – 74% |
| D | 60 – 69% |
| F | 59% and below |

Homework: You can expect your student to bring home 2-5 homework assignments per term. When students seem to require additional practice with lessons they be given the opportunity to refine skills and make up for lost class points with take home assignments.

Schoolwide late homework policy: The Spectrum Academy middleschool has adopted a universal policy on late assignments. **Assignments will be accepted no later than 2 weeks after the posted due date.**

Course Description: This course will cover the Utah Standards for Science and Social Studies for 6th, 7th, and 8th grades. Since all standards cannot be covered for all grades in one school year, select standards have been chosen out of each grade. Standards will rotate yearly so as to allow all standards to be taught over a 3 year period.

 Our social skills curriculum focuses on explicit classroom instruction of social graces and safety. This curriculum will be taught as a whole and all standards will be addressed this year.

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| **Yearly Standards** |
| **Science** | **Social Studies** | **Social Skills** |
| Scientific ObservationAstronomyBasic PhysicsGeology | Native American TribesAmerican ColonizationThe Revolutionary WarAmerican Expansion | Working in GroupsBasic Social SkillsPersonal Safety |

Class description: Students in the foundation skill courses will be spending three (3) consecutive class periods in Mr. McDevan’s classroom. Each 45 minute period will focus on a different subject with the exception of days in which material from one subject will be covered more extensively.

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| **Main Classroom Activities** |
| **Science** | **Social Studies** | **Social Skills** |
| LectureInteractive NotebooksSmall Group Learning Centers* Vocabulary
* Science Reading
* Active Learning Projects

Whole Class Workshops | Guided NotesWhole Class WorkshopsLectureKinesthetic Learning ActivitiesWeb Activities | Working in GroupsVocabularyLectureSocial InvestigationsReading Activities |

Behavior: Mr. McDevan’s class, along with several other classrooms, uses a simple universal tier system to track and enforce behavioral consequences.

Tier 1- (good day) Your student followed classroom rules and received full positive consequences for participation.

Tier 2- (okay day) Your student may have arrived to class late or refused to fully participate in classroom activities and did not receive full positive consequences for the day

Tier 3- (needs improvement) Your student needed to leave the classroom or speak to administrative staff for negative consequences.

Regular tier 3 behaviors will be communicated to the student’s primary guardian.

If your student has persistent behavioral problems, they may be recommended for more individualized behavior plans.

NECESSARY CLASS MATERIALS

1. Composition Book (College or Wide ruled, as appropriate for your student)

SCHOOL STANDARD MATERIALS

1. EF/Backpack
2. Pencil Case
3. 2 Pocket Folders (7)
4. Spectrum Academy Calendar & Tracker (issued by school at beginning of year)

BATHROOM POLICY

Students will only be allowed to use the restroom/get a drink once during a 45 minute period. Due to the sensitive nature of the subject, students with different needs can be accommodated. If you believe your student may need additional accommodation on this subject, please feel free to contact me at any time and I will ensure that need is met with discretion.