Mr. Martin’s Class Guidelines

Westside High School – Spring 2008 – Contemporary Issues/Global Classrooms/Model UN

Dear Parent/Guardian and Student,

Rapidly expanding technologies and changing social and corporate systems demand that the citizens of the world recognize our interrelatedness and work toward securing a more understanding world as we move forward into the new millennium and our new, global community.

The Mission of Global Classrooms

Global Classrooms cultivates global literacy, life skills and the attitudes necessary for active citizenship by:

• Engaging students through the exploration of international issues and institutions;
• Supporting educators through professional development and innovative learning resources; and
• Enriching communities by nurturing respect among young people for diverse perspectives.

Furthermore, our purpose is to explore the role of international organizations, particularly the United Nations, in providing for the peaceful resolution of international conflict. This course will afford us the opportunity to research many of today’s most pressing global issues, work together within the framework and structure of the United Nations to come up with solutions for these issues, and speak publicly about what we see are the solutions for these problems.

It is indeed and honor and a privilege to have your student in my class. With that in mind, I feel that it is important for you to know that I have been teaching for 7 years and have taught across the age range from first grade to middle school and now high school.

My main concern as a teacher has always been to help students achieve success not only in class, but also in other classes. I will need your help. Most recent educational scientific studies have proven how important parental involvement is in helping students achieve success in school. That is why I communicate so much with parents through e-mail first, and phone calls second. Because I know you want your student to have an excellent semester, I am pleased to tell you about what we are going to be doing in class and suggest some ways you can participate in improving your student’s performance.

Your can help your student get the most out of this year by helping me in the following ways:

1. Ask to see your student’s work at various times. Quite often, that task will simply be to listen to him/her talk about what’s going on in class. With projects and presentations, use constructive criticism: praise what he/she does well, explain what needs to be improved, and end with a positive comment. This alone could give a great boost of confidence!
2. Remind your child that school is important. Please stay involved. Discuss school at any time.
I believe that learning is much more than listening to a lecture, reading a book, or taking a test. With your help and cooperation, I am going to help your child learn to do quality work and that what he/she learns in school will be useful in his/her life. If you want to know what we are up to please go to www.westsidewolves.org and there will be a link to my class web page that will have my schedule, contact information, lesson plans and syllabus. The direct link to that page is http://whscmarti15.edublogs.org.

Grading Policy:
1. Daily Grade Assignments 100 points per assignment
   Tests: 200 points per unit exam
   Quiz: 100 points per quiz
   Projects/Presentations: 300 points (this includes a visual, written, and spoken component)
2. LATE work may result in serious reductions in grades. It is the responsibility of the student to get their work in on time. **I WILL NOT ACCEPT A ZERO. STUDENTS WILL COMPLETE ALL ASSIGNED SPEECHES AND PRESENTATIONS EVEN IF I HAVE TO WATCH THEM IN YOUR LIVING ROOM!!!**
3. I will be taking an organization grade at the end of every six weeks. This will be counted as a test grade. Because of this, all students will be required to have a three-ringed, hard-backed binder with at least three dividers or a three to five subject notebook. The notebook needs to be for that subject only. Work from the previous six weeks should remain in the notebook and not be thrown away. Because of this, the ring size should probably be at least 1 ½ inches.
4. Audience etiquette is an important consideration respectfully given to everyone. Students who choose not to be good audience members will first have a conference with the instructor in order to correct behavior. If the disrespect continues, a parent/guardian will be contacted, and points will be deducted from his/her participation grade. Although rare, if misbehavior continues, then further disciplinary action will be taken through the administration.
5. When a student is absent, it is his/her responsibility to inquire about make-up work. All make-up work should be completed within three days of the absence.
6. Various presentations and performances may be filmed for classroom use only.

I look forward to working with your child and sincerely hope that you will contact me if you have any questions during the school year. My school e-mail is cmarti15@houstonisd.org. I primarily communicate through e-mail. The school phone number is 218-920-8000 x 6032 and my cell phone number is 832.646.1800 (no phone calls past 9:00 p.m. please!).

Please have your student return the document requiring your and his/her signature. Doing that will result in your student beginning the semester with a 100 as a daily grade. If you also send me an e-mail confirming your e-mail address, your student will automatically earn 20 points this six weeks in extra credit. I know we’re going to have a great semester!
Signature Document

By signing, I have read, understood, and will follow the class guidelines in Mr. Martin’s class for the Spring 2008 semester at Westside High School.

(Parent name - printed)  (Parent Signature)

(Student name - printed)  (Student Signature)

(Date)

(Parent E-mail)

(Student E-mail)

(Mailing Address – please don’t forget to include the zip code)

(Phone number where a parent/guardian can be reached during the day)