

Life Skills Curriculum

Course Syllabus

Teacher's Name: Laurie Lietz

Contact Information: 940-1881 (classroom) or 375-6027 (cell)

Room Location: B42

Teacher's Assistant: Theresa Moore (TA)

Teacher Availability: I arrive at school around 7:00 daily and leave at approximately 4:15. I can be reached at home between the hours of 4:30 p.m. and 8:00 p.m. Appointments can be arranged as necessary. I believe it is important to keep in regular contact and will be willing to meet with you on any issue you have. Please let me know if there are any important changes happening with your child. A daily homework assignment sheet and weekly progress reports will be sent home detailing upcoming events and information.

Instructional Day: Our students will be required to be in class from 8:05 to 3:20 Monday through Friday. The day officially begins when the students arrive by bus. If your child is not taking the bus, they must be at school by 8:05 or they will be marked tardy. We will follow the school policy regarding tardies and discipline.

Our day will begin with a daily activity prior to eating breakfast at 8:35. Arriving late will impact your student's performance and is a disruption to the morning. Please make every attempt to have your child at school on time, every day. **If you know your child will be late or absent, please call the school before 8:00.** A note is required for all absences, tardies, and early pick-up.

Course Objectives: Our goal is to prepare our students to adjust to life outside of school. We will work towards that goal through many avenues, such as, reading, writing, listening, math, life skills and behavioral expectations. Students will acquire skills necessary for independent living.

Course Overview: Our students will be given instruction in the following core academic areas: English Language Arts, Science, Social Studies, and Math. In addition, the students will be taught life skill activities such as cooking, shopping, cleaning, survival signs, organization, leisure, and physical exercise. We will accomplish these goals through classroom instruction and field trip activities. We will follow the Extended Common Core and Essential Standards. If you would like additional information regarding these standards please let me know.

Preparation and Materials: Your child will need the following classroom supplies. It is essential that your child arrives at school daily with these supplies. Additional supplies might be needed as the school year progresses:

- ❖ Pencils
- ❖ Erasers
- ❖ Colored pencils, crayons, and/or markers
- ❖ Glue Sticks
- ❖ Scissors
- ❖ Pencil Box
- ❖ 100 index cards
- ❖ 1" hardcover binder
- ❖ 5-70 count Spiral bound notebooks (wide ruled)
- ❖ Deodorant
- ❖ Headphones (very important)
- ❖ Change of clothes (if necessary)
- ❖ Diapers (if necessary)
- ❖ Baby wipes (if necessary)

Additional Classroom Supplies (Helpful, but not required):

- ❖ Packaged individual snacks/treats
- ❖ Aluminum foil
- ❖ Ziploc-bags (quart and gallon sized)
- ❖ Plastic Silverware
- ❖ Styrofoam plates
- ❖ Styrofoam bowls
- ❖ Plastic cups
- ❖ Napkins
- ❖ Dish soap
- ❖ Baby wipes
- ❖ Clorox type wipes

Teacher Responsibilities: We are responsible for meeting the unique educational needs of each of our students. We will maintain accurate records and keep in frequent contact with parents regarding any concerns. We will schedule field trips that meet our educational objectives. We will provide a safe, enriching learning environment. Our number one concern is for your child to reach his or her potential.

Student Responsibility: Our students are **expected to participate in all activities**. They need to work towards their own personal achievement. Students are expected to be in school on a regular basis, on time and eager to learn. They will be required to follow all Beaufort County Schools Codes of Conduct, including following the dress code requirements. We will enforce the Beaufort County Schools Attendance Policy. Students will be expected to complete all classroom and homework assignments on the date assigned. If your child is absent they will have one additional day per absence to make up for missing homework assignments. Daily classroom assignments will be completed as

we can fit them into our day. If your child does not complete homework they will receive a zero. They will still be required to complete the assignment in class. In addition, if your child refuses to complete their classroom assignment, the assignment will be saved and they will be expected to complete it for credit. They will not be able to participate in certain activities until all assignments are completed. If we suspect that the work was completed by someone other than the student they will receive a zero on the assignment and will still be responsible for completing the work themselves.

Curriculum: We will utilize a variety of materials to meet our objectives. We have textbooks for math, science, health, social studies and language arts. We will also use additional resources such as newspapers, magazines, workbooks, and personal experiences. Each student will be assigned a Chromebook or Ipad for the classroom to use.

Subject Areas:

- Science: Earth and Environmental, Physical Science and Life Science, including Health
- Math: Number operations, Geometry and Measurement, Algebra, and Data Analysis and Probability, Financial Management.
- English Language Arts: Reading, Writing, Listening, and Speaking
- History: U.S. History, Civics, World History, Geography, Economics, Political Science, Sociology, and Psychology.
- Physical Education
- Leisure Activities: sports and recreation, crafts, puzzles, games, drawing and computer skills
- Vocational Preparation- job exploration, applying for employment, interviewing, and goal setting.
- Health, Safety and Independent Living- cooking, washing and drying clothes, cleaning, shopping, dressing, calendar, money, self-advocacy, keyboarding, personal hygiene, living arrangements, interpersonal skills and conflict resolution

Homework Expectations: In order for our students to maintain skills that will be taught in the classroom they need to have lots of different opportunities to practice. Reading daily is necessary. In addition, providing plenty of practice using the calendar, money, following recipes and recognizing dangers/survival signs will help your child to succeed. Your child will bring homework home on a regular basis. **Completion of homework will count towards their academic grades. We are concerned with the attempt and not the accuracy.** We understand that your child may need assistance with the work, but we expect the work to be done by the student. **Please do not do the work for your child.** It only hurts your child in the long run. If your child does not bring in his or her homework on a regular basis, he or she will lose classroom privileges. We will also arrange time for your student to complete the work during the day, which may result in your child not getting the opportunity to participate in field trips, gym, or computer/free time.

Method of Contacts: I believe that it is very important that we work together as a team. I will do my best to keep you informed of activities and classroom performance. For students attending class face to face they will come home daily with a log of homework assignments in a binder. Please check daily to see what your student has to do. It is extremely rare that they will not have some kind of homework Monday through Thursday. Every Friday you will receive a weekly communication log. It will show you what your child earned on tests, homework, and classroom behavior/participation for the week. Your child is responsible for getting you to sign it each week. **This is worth 10 points weekly.** Please take the time to look over their grades and let me know if you have any concerns. There will be a place on this form for both of us to make comments. If there is something important coming up, I will put the reminder on this weekly progress report. The report stays in their homework binder for the entire marking period. **Please do not sign this form before Friday afternoon since the purpose is to inform you of his or her progress during that week.**

In addition, you will receive a computer generated progress report as required by Beaufort County Schools.

If you have any concerns at any time, I can be reached by phone and email. I update my website on a regular basis with revised lesson plans and student work samples (if applicable). If you share your email address with me, I will also communicate with you through this method.

Attendance/Tardy Policy: It is important that your child arrives at school on time every day. **Please call the school if your child is going to be absent or late by 8:00 am.**

Behavior Expectations: It is important that our students follow the same rules as the rest of the school. We will handle discipline issues on an individual basis based on the county guidelines. I will contact you immediately if I have any concerns.

Grading Procedures:

Classroom participation and behavior: 85% of grade

Homework/Classwork: 10% of grade (Homework is given Monday through Thursday)

Tests: 5% of grade (Students may be given a spelling and sight or vocabulary word test every Friday, other subjects tests will be given throughout the year.)

Please make sure your child is completing their work independently so that I can properly monitor their progress. If they are unable to complete the work with minimal help please let me know so I can adjust the level.

SOAR: Our students and staff are:

S: Self-directed

O: Organized

A: Accountable

R: Resilient

Electronic Devices: I know most of the students have personal cell phones. I do not mind them bringing them to school, but they must remain off and out of sight during the instructional part of the school day. Southside school policy states that students are allowed to use their phones during breakfast and lunch. If they are caught using the phone during other times of the day I am required to turn them into the office and a parent will need to pick it up. I will allow students to listen to music on the bus during field trips. I reserve the right to change my mind if I believe that a student is abusing this privilege. The school, nor myself, are not responsible for any loss or damage to any electronic device.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions, concerns or suggestions. I am thrilled to be a part of your child's life.

Please sign and return this page only.

I have read and agree with the information provided in this course syllabus for the 2024-25 school year.

Student's Name: _____

Parents' Names: _____

Parent's Signature: _____

Email address: _____

Home number: _____

Cell number: _____

Preferred method of contact: _____

Date: _____