**Current Events Syllabus**

**Teacher: Mr. Forster**

**Room: G13**

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**ILearn Page Code br4pqw**

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**Description**:

Current Events is a one semester course aimed at better familiarizing students with the world around them. They will attain a greater understanding of local, state, national and international issues and how those issues directly impact them. Through readings, viewing news programs, discussions and debates, students will learn how to craft well-reasoned opinions grounded by factual information. Ultimately, the course will better prepare students to actively participate in the democratic society in which they live.

The themes of the course will be determined largely by the news of the day throughout the semester. Anticipated themes include (in no particular order) war, sports, government, business, finance, crime, politics, education, society, safety, noted persons, industries, religion, literature, persons not noted, agriculture, theater, marriage, improvements, weather, science and discovery, fashion, transportation, and art.

**Course Goals**:

At the completion of this course students will be able to:

Gather Information

Understand Information

Analyze Issues

Draw and Justify Conclusions

Organize and Communicate Information

Think and Communicate Critically

Learn and Consider Issues collaboratively

Learn Independently

Locate important news locations on a map

Act Ethically

**Common Core Standards for Social Studies Covered**:

**Common Core Reading Standard 1**:

Students will be able to site specific textual evidence to support analysis of primary and secondary sources, connecting insights gained from specific details to an understanding of the text as a whole.

**Common Core Writing Standard 6:**

Students will be able to use technology, including the Internet, to produce, publish, and update individual or shared writing products in response to ongoing feedback, including new arguments or information.

**Materials Needed:**

Binder, Tabs, Paper & Pen

Outside sources will be provided: local newspapers, national magazines, various news programs, articles and other reading.

**Other Information:**

**Classroom Behavior:** We will use the Dearborn School District Core Values as our guide to proper behavior. Remember to treat others as you wish to be treated (***RESPECT)***. We will follow all rules in the Dearborn High Student handbook. For example, no drinks, food, gum, hats or electronic devices are allowed in class. **Violation of any of the above will result in a “5” point deduction from your Participation Grade**. Disruptive behavior will not be tolerated. If you would like to participate in class discussion or if you have a question or need to use classroom supplies, please raise your hand and wait to be recognized by the teacher (***COURTESY)***.

**Cheating/Plagiarism:** Copying another student’s work (test/quiz answers, homework or essays) will not be tolerated. A student caught copying or allowing another student to copy work/answers will receive a “0” on that assignment, quiz/test or essay. If you are caught a second time the office and your parents will be notified. If you are caught a third time you will lose credit for the class (***HONESTY/INTEGRITY)***.

**Absentee Policy**: Regular attendance is required according to district policy. We will follow the district attendance policy as it relates to earning credit for class. Students are responsible for completing missing work in a timely manner. All missing work must be completed within the same number of school days that were missed (e.g. a student that misses two days of school will have two days to complete missing work). Moreover, students are responsible for obtaining missing information/work by themselves. This can be done by setting up a meeting with me before/after school and/or checking the class ILearn page and/or talking to a friend ***(RESPONSIBILITY)***. Accommodations will be made for special circumstances; however, the student and/or parent must communicate with me prior to or immediately after the occurrence. Attendance will affect the participation portion of your grade. Any absence over “9” will reduce your Participation Grade by 10 points. **Any tardy over “3” will reduce your Participation Grade by 5 points.**

**Graded Components:**

**Missing/Late Work**: Students have the opportunity to receive up to 60% if they turn in an assignment one day late. No credit will be awarded for work submitted more than one day after its original due date. (See Absentee policy for information regarding extended absences)

**Quizzes**: Both assigned and unannounced quizzes will be given throughout the semester. Expect assessment (quizzes) after reading assignments or watching news programs and completing cooperative activities.

**Class Participation**: In order to maintain an active learning environment and teach the importance of personal opinion, students will receive points for class participation. Students may lose points for lack of participation, behavior infractions and/or inattentiveness or gain points for added involvement.

**Writing Assignments/Journal Entries/Article Summaries:** Writings will vary from basic position papers to original works on a given subject. Students will learn how to effectively express themselves while incorporating a wide range of factual support.

**Enrichment Projects**: Students will be required to complete various projects throughout the semester in order to magnify areas of interest. In some cases, students will be asked to work together in cooperative learning groups. Although students work together during cooperative learning activities, individual students should understand all components of group projects, as quizzes will be given independently rather than collectively. Relying on any one student to complete all work is unacceptable and will be evident during post-activity assessment.

**Grading**: Grades will be based on a point system. All assignments, quizzes, projects, essays and tests will be assigned a point value. Any assignment that is not turned in on the due date will not be accepted.

A 100-94 A- 93-90 B+ 89-87 B 86-83 B- 82-80 C+ 79-77

C 76-73 C- 72-70 D+ 69-67 D 66-63 D- 62-60 E 59-0

**Online Component**: Parents and students can visit my ILearn & IBlog page to stay current on news, assignments and resources regarding the course.

After reading the above information, please acknowledge that you and your son/daughter understand these rules and agree to follow these classroom policies by signing the lines below.

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 (student name & signature) (parent’s name, signature & phone number)