Dear Parents, August 19, 2016

Welcome back to St. Mark’s School! I am excited to begin a new school year working with your child. In the hopes of streamlining the course information for your student, I have compiled the attached documents for the subjects I teach. We have reviewed this once in class. Please review again together and return this letter signed by both parent and student to indicate your receipt of the syllabi. This signed page is worth 5 points.

If you have any questions or concerns, please don’t hesitate to contact me at awolbach@stmarksboise.org.

I have read, I understand, and I agree to the St. Mark’s 7th Grade Wolbach Class Syllabi:

Student’s Name (Please Print):\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Student’s Signature:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_Date:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Parent’s Name (Please Print):\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Parent’s Signature:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_Date:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Parent’s e-mail:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

 **Instructor Information:**

Instructor: Mrs. Alissa Wolbach

awolbach@stmarksboise.org

www.stmarksmiddleschool.weebly.com

**Course:**

7th Grade Social Studies

Class Length: Daily, 45 Min. Periods

Text: Chu, G. H., Hardwick, S., Holtgrieve, D., & Wiggins, G. P. (2011). Pearson my world geography. Boston, MA: Pearson.

**Materials:**

* Loose leaf, college rule paper
* Pencil, pen, highlighter
* 1 set of 3x6, white, lined index cards
* Interactive Notebook: Spiral notebook, college ruled, 70+ pages
* Scissors
* Colored pencils or crayons
* Sticky Notes (recommended)

**Course Description:**

This course provides a factual knowledge of geography of Earth’s eastern hemisphere. The course begins with an examination of the nature of geography. The student will examine the physical, political, and economic life of the countries of Europe and Russia, Central and Southwest Asia, Africa, South Asia, and East Asia and the Pacific World. The student will be led to develop an appreciation of the glorious creation of God through our exploration of our world.

**Course Overview:**

1. Physical and Human Geography (Core Concepts)
2. Europe and Russia
3. Africa
4. Southwest Asia
5. South and Central Asia
6. East and Southeast Asia
7. Australia and the Pacific World

**Course**:

7th Grade STEAM

Class Length: 1-2 45-minute class periods/week

**Materials Needed:**

* Quad Ruled Composition Notebook (Engineer Notebook)
* Blue or black pens
* Calculator
* Scissors

**Course Description:**

STEAM is the acronym for science, technology, engineering, art and math. STEAM education is at the heart of today’s high-tech, high-skill global economy. For America to remain economically competitive, our next generation of leaders – the students of today –must develop the critical-reasoning and problem-solving skills that will help make them the most productive in the world.

STEAM education engages students in activities, projects, and problem-based learning, which provides hands-on classroom experiences. Students create, design, build, discover, collaborate and solve problems while applying what they learn in math and science.

Additionally, there will be time set aside in this program for work on typing and keyboarding skills. There will be weekly homework that goes home to be completed and returned. The goal is for students to become more fluent in typing in preparation for high school and beyond.

**Course Overview: Semester 1**

The first semester’s curriculum will begin with defining what engineering is and exploring the engineering design process. From here, the class will be introduced to Future Cities, applying what they have learned regarding the design process to the Future Cities design and building project. Three 7th grade teams will be chosen to compete in the regional competition being held January 21st. Students will be hard at work developing skills in the areas of technology, project management, teamwork, and engineering. There will be more to follow regarding this competition. Please stay tuned!

**Course Overview: Semester 2**

7th grade students will explore biomedical engineering and the human body. Students are introduced to seven systems of the human body; skeletal, muscular, circulatory, respiratory, digestive, sensory, and reproductive, as well as genetics. At every stage, they are introduced to engineers' creative involvement in caring for the human body.

**Course:**

7B Religion (Note: Mrs. Behernd is the 7A religion education instructor)

Class Length: 45-min class periods Mon.-Thurs.

Text: *Christ Our Life: New Evangelization Edition* by Sisters of Notre Dame

**Materials Needed:**

* Loose leaf, college rule paper
* Pen and highlighter
* Markers or colored pencils
* 1” binder dedicated to religious education or a “Religion” tab in a school binder
* Religion reflection journal (provided)

**Course Description:**

This course will teach students that each life is centered around Jesus. It will explore the Church’s call for a New Evangelization, guiding students to know, proclaim, witness, and share the Catholic faith. Each lesson of this course integrates scripture, Catholic doctrine and Tradition, and the Church’s social teachings.

**Course Outline:**

Unit 1: Jesus Christ the Way

Unit 2: Jesus Christ the Truth

Unit 3: Jesus Christ the Life

**Expectations:**

Students are expected to adhere to the St. Mark’s student handbook and classroom rules at all times.

Students are expected to be in their assigned seats with all materials for class within 2 minutes of entering the classroom.

No food or drinks allowed in the classroom with the exception of a water bottle.

Five hall passes will be issued each quarter. The intent of the hall pass is to reward students who manage their time and come prepared to class each day. Passes are intended to be used to go to the bathroom during class time or visit a cubby due to forgotten books or supplies. Each pass is worth 5 extra credit points to be used towards homework each quarter. Passes cannot be pushed forward into the following quarter. Passes will not be re-issued if lost or stolen.

**Instructional Strategy:**

The learning environment will consist of various strategies to facilitate each child’s learning. Traditional lecturing and note taking will be supported and complimented with collaborative group discussions, activities and project-based learning opportunities.

**Participation:**

Students are expected to show up ready and willing to learn, engaged in classroom discussions and projects. Notebooks, writing utensils, and materials needed for class are expected to be brought to the classroom each day. Points will be lost if students have to be re-directed in their learning on more than one occasion, if students are not prepared with their learning materials, or lack engagement in the learning process. 10 points are allocated to each student each day with 1 pt. removed for each offense. These instances will be recorded.

**Interactive Notebook (Social Studies)**:

Each student should come to class prepared with one, college ruled, spiral notebook at the beginning of the year. The notebook will be used during social studies. We will spend the first few days of class assembling and analyzing interactive notebooks and the expectations surrounding them. It is crucial that the notebook is brought to class each and every class period. All notes, class work, homework, quizzes, observations, conclusions and reflections will be done directly in the notebook or placed into the notebook.

There will be periodic notebook checks that will count as part of the notebook grade. These notebooks should be cared for. If the notebook is lost, the student will be required to make up all past work after school or from home. Please do not lose your notebook!

The theory behind interactive notebooks is to allow students to organize and synthesize information given to them in class. Interactive notebooks allow students to gather information from many sources in order to critically answer questions. The notebooks provide students an opportunity to make their learning more meaningful. It stretches students to think more deeply beyond a “yes” and “no” answer. Notebooks are often challenging to become accustomed to at first, but after a few weeks, they are seamless and streamlined, creating a very structured, yet individual learning tool. If interested in reading more research supporting interactive notebooks, please contact me.

**Engineer Notebook (STEAM):**

Students will be required to keep an engineering notebook, similar to a notebook used by actual engineers. They will record input and information delivered in the way of notes and research, as well as designs, drawing, data, and reflections. I will occasionally perform random notebook checks to ensure students are keeping up their notebooks in an organized fashion and utilizing them appropriately in their learning. Notebooks will be collected each quarter and given a grade based on a rubric I will provide to the students. Periodic self-evaluations and peer-evaluations will be conducted as self-assessment and to provide good feedback to the students.

**Homework:**

All homework is due at the beginning of the next class period unless stated otherwise during class. Homework should be completed to the best of the student’s ability. Some assignments will be graded for completion while others will be graded for correctness.

Homework is assigned to reinforce concepts taught during a lesson. Homework is also used as a tool to encourage students to effectively manage their time outside of school. There will be time in class for students to complete many of their assignments, assuming that students are using their time wisely.

**Late work:** A student will receive a zero in the grade book for an assignment not turned in. If the assignment is not turned in by the due day, a mark of 50% at best will be earned. Work may be turned in late up until the last date of the unit for up to half credit.

**Excused absences:** If a student has an excused absence, make up work will be accepted. The student has the number of days they were absent plus one to hand in make-up work. Students can e-mail, call, or speak with the teacher during times of availability to receive missed assignments. Most assignments and presentations can also be found on the St. Mark’s middle school website found at [www.stmarksmiddleschool.weebly.com](http://www.stmarksmiddleschool.weebly.com). **It is the student’s responsibility to make up missed work due to an absence.**

**School-related absences:** Students absent for school related activities need to obtain their work before being gone. Work missed during a class period is due the next class period.

**Quizzes and Exams:**

Quizzes will be announced at least one class period and exams will be announced at least three class period prior to the actual assessment. Missing the class before a quiz or exam for school activities will not excuse a student from the quiz or exam, although the teacher reserves the right to consider circumstances on an individual basis. Quizzes or exams missed due to illness must be made up within a timely fashion**. Students are responsible for scheduling a time to make up the quiz or exam.**

**Grading:**

Exams, quizzes, projects: 50%

Homework, Class Work, Notebook: 40%

Participation: 10%

**Power School:**

Power School is the computer grading program used by St. Mark’s School. Both parents and students are expected to check Power School regularly. This program is the primary means by which grades and progress will be communicated to parents and students; however, many instances may require communications via email or telephone. Student grades will be updated to the PowerSchool system each Wednesday.

\*Please note, a “blank” for a grade means the assignment has not been graded. A “zero” for a grade means the student did not turn the assignment in.

**I am available before and after school if extra help is warranted. Please make an appointment in advance to ensure I am on campus. If you need to contact me regarding questions or concerns, please do so at my school email address** **awolbach@stmarksboise.org****. The class website is another resource to find missing assignments. The website can be found at www.stmarksmiddleschool.weebly.com.**