

Diamond Fork Middle School

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801-798-4052 Room: T4

Dear Students,

Welcome to College and Career Awareness! I look forward to being your teacher this year!. Our theme is, "I Had Fun!" We are going to explore areas of study and employment in a variety of fun and exciting ways! For example, you will not only learn about pathways of study like forensic science, you'll experience and do investigative science work as a "detective". Agriculture is not just about growing crops and raising animals, it's also about technologies used to aid in farming. We will explore agriculture, health science, information technologies, and many other career pathways!!

One question students often ask is, "What is CCA?". The easiest way to answer this question is that CCA is a class that helps students discover what they want to be when they grow up. More importantly, the question to ask is, "Who do I want to be when I grow up?"

Please read through this document carefully, fill out the information on the last page, and return the form to me when completed. Thank you!!

### **About Mr. Oyster**

I was born and raised in Spanish Fork, Utah. This is my 24th year teaching for the Nebo school district. I've taught 3rd, 4th, 5th, 6th, 7th, and 8th grades. I graduated from UVU with a Bachelors in Elementary Education then received a Masters of Education degree from Utah State University - GO AGGIES!! I love spending time with my children rockhounding, hiking, camping, and fishing. My favorite place to visit is my family cabin near Fairview Lakes. I enjoy traveling and exploring new places. One of my favorite memories is spending time with my children in Guatemala helping at an orphanage. I wanted to be a bull rider when I grew up. I spent a lot of time in high school and college chasing this dream. Riding bulls is a passion of mine. I chose to become a teacher because I wanted to make a difference in the lives of children. I also enjoy having summer vacations so I can spend time with my own children. Some of my favorite hobbies include gardening, riding ATV's, rodeo, traveling, woodworking, Dutch oven cooking, and rock hounding. I am the proud owner of a dog named Suki, a feral cat named Millie, 2 goats and 5 chickens. I might bring them to school sometime in the near future for show and tell.

### **Diamond Fork Middle School Values**

As a student at Diamond Fork Middle School, We are "All in for Learning" and We live the values of Diamond Fork each and every day: The Diamond Fork Middle School Values are:

1. Respect. Acting with respect in class and talking appropriately, using electronic devices appropriately, keeping your area clean, following directions, treating substitutes with respect, and being prepared for class.
2. Compassion. Kind behavior towards others.
3. Courage. Not whining or complaining about work, being willing to work and participate
4. Integrity. Being honest with work and no cheating or plagiarism
5. Perseverance. Completing and turning in work on time.
6. Curiosity. Find joy in and have a strong desire to learn something.

We uphold Diamond Fork Middle School values in class and throughout the school day. The strength of the team is the team. Each student is responsible for his/her actions as well as his/her emotions.

### **Classroom Rules:**

1. Use your time wisely
2. Actively listen to the right person at the right time
3. Positively contribute to the learning atmosphere of the class.

### **Student Rights:**

1. You have the right to make a contribution to an attentive, responsive audience.
2. You have the right to ask questions.
3. You have the right to be treated civilly.
4. You have the right to have your ideas discussed.

### **Student Obligations:**

1. You are obligated to speak loudly enough for others to hear.
2. You are obligated to listen for understanding.
3. You are obligated to respectfully agree or disagree (and explain why) in response to other people's idea

### **Citizenship Grading**

Students receive citizenship grades S (Satisfactory), N (Needs Improvement), or U (Unsatisfactory) based on the rubrics for our core values of Respect, Compassion, Courage, Curiosity, Integrity, and Perseverance. Parents and students can see these grades on iCampus. Satisfactory citizenship is required for students to be eligible for rewards. I will have a citizenship plan in my classroom and will use it as my main source of parent communication regarding student behavior. You can find an updated copy of our citizenship plan on our school website. The citizenship notes in iCampus are limited. If you are concerned about your citizenship and would like extra details, please feel free to contact me via email or by phone.

## **Consequences**

Positive participation in the classroom is essential for learning.. It is key to follow the expectations that I have established for you in order for all of us to have a fun and positive experience this year.:

1. Tier 1: I will remind you to follow the rules and live the values of Diamond Fork : This is your opportunity to correct your behavior.
2. Tier 2: I will remind you again to follow the rules and live the Diamond Fork Values. We will discuss the specific behavior that needs correcting and document the incident in your citizenship grade on Infinite Campus. At this point, I will contact your parents to ask for support and suggestions on how to resolve the behavior concern.
3. Tier 3: I will contact your parents again to share with them the concern I have with your misbehavior. We will discuss options to help improve your behavior and may implement a behavior contract.
4. Tier 4: You will be excused from class to visit with an administrator, parents will be contacted, and you will be placed on a behavior contract.

## **Rewards**

For adhering to the expectations listed above, there will be several positive consequences. We will discuss these more as a class. Remember, lack of reward does not equal punishment! :) As stated in the DFMS news letter, there will be all kinds of fun rewards- DFMS will be a little like Harvard and a little like Disneyland! We will have Pod Parties, Diamondback Days, Diamondback Cards, Intramurals, After School Activities, E-Time every day, Plays of the Day, Students of the Month, Stand 4 Kind Group, HOPE Squad, National Junior Honor Society, Battle of the Books, Math Olympiad, DF News, Character Ed, Student Leadership, and so much more!

## **Grades/Curriculum:**

Please check your grades online as often as you can. I do to stay on top of submitting assignments into iCampus regularly. If you have questions regarding grades simply come talk with me. I am willing to work with you. Your success and happiness are my number one priority..

My grading scale is as follows:

A: 84.5-100%

B: 69.5-84.4.%

C: 54.5-69.4%

F: 0-54.4%

### **Category Weighing:**

50%

Assignments/Projects

50% Participation

### **Turning in assignments/Homework**

Most assignments will be collected digitally and some will be on paper. I will teach you how to use and submit assignments via Canvas. Please submit your assignments at a reasonable time. There is no late work. All assignments are due the last day of the term. That being said, try to get the work done as we go throughout the term so that you are not overwhelmed with the work that will be due by the end of the term.

I do not give homework.. Assignments/Projects not completed during class may be worked on during extension time.

### **Policies and Procedures**

#### **Absences/Tardies**

If you are absent or tardy, you are responsible for talking to me at an appropriate time (not while I'm teaching) to receive your missing work. If you have questions regarding our school and district wide attendance policy, please visit [www.nebo.edu](http://www.nebo.edu)

#### **Hall Passes**

It is encouraged to take care of personal needs during the 4 minute break between class periods. That being said, if you need to use the hall pass please let me know and I will excuse you during class.

#### **Food & Drinks**

Food and drinks are not allowed in the classroom as per school policy. Water bottles are okay.

#### **Classroom Cleanup**

Before you leave the class each day, I expect you to clean up after yourselves. I may even ask you to help clean the area around your desk, even if you didn't make the mess. This helps maintain a proper learning atmosphere.

#### **Supplies for Class**

- I will provide all school supply needs for CCA. However, if you'd like to bring your own supplies feel free to do so. Some suggested supplies you might want to have for your personal use are:
  - Notebook for taking notes.
  - Pencils or pens: You will need something to write with every day.
  - On occasion, we may request that students bring in random supplies from home such as empty 2-liter bottles or other household items. Bringing these items in will not be required, however, they will be very appreciated. I'll send out an email to parents throughout the year to let you know if we need those types of supplies. If the students could bring in extras in case others need them that don't bring them then that would be awesome!
  - Colored pencils, scissors, glue, markers: I will provide these when needed, but if you would like, you may bring your own set so as not to share.

### **Media Use**

Video clips: I like to use video clips and other digital media to help enhance my instruction. Chosen media is for relevant educational purposes only and are screened for content. If you have any questions or concerns, please let me know. Some of the media I will be using includes:

- Disney/Pixar shorts and movies for lesson enhancement
- The Pixar movie Inside Out
- Other G or PG movies that I may see fit