



8th Grade Connects
Dr. Joe Clardy Ed.D.
Email: jclardy@ems-isd.net

Conference Period: 8th. period

Tutoring Opportunities: 7:00 am – 8:15 am Mon. – Fri.

Class Materials:

- list required materials or equipment Required materials will consist of a one-inch plastic three ring binder with notebook paper, something to write with (pencil, pen).
- list digital tool(s) used during the class period but not limited to for student coursework, Canvas, OneNote, etc.

Access to Canvas and Office365 tools is available to students through our [Single Sign-on Portal \(SSO\)](#). Students receive their SSO login during enrollment.

Course Description:

Connects; The overall foundation is to develop a well rounded and respectful attitude towards others by learning about self-awareness and projecting respect. Throughout this course students will learn techniques to raise their levels of understand in the areas of organizational skills as well as planning for real world situations.

Course Goals:

The teacher will design and implement a system in which personal education plans are created that promote high expectations and meet the academic, social, emotional, and extra-curricular needs of each student.

The teacher will create a classroom environment where technology is integrated into the fabric of all we do.

The teacher will provide each student with the resources and opportunities to collaboratively plan and delivery a highly rigorous educational response to an instructional presentation.

The teacher will create a culture that promotes each student’s inner drive, providing the opportunity to reach full potential.

The teacher will systematically evaluate and assess learning, processing, and programs against internal and external benchmark standards to hold students accountable.

The teacher will employ high-performing, dynamic content lessons with character and conviction to improve their students through effective innovative teaching strategies

Replace this text with a list of 4-6 “big picture” student-centered course goals or learning objectives. What should your students learn or be able to do as a result of successful participation in your course?

Student Evaluation:

The grading system for this course is as follows:

- Grade averaged 60% Major 40% Minor (Advanced courses 70% Major 30% Minor)
- Major grades – tests (including District Common Assessments, six weeks assessments, projects, final essays, research papers, presentations); minimum three per six weeks
- Minor grades – quizzes, daily assignments, journals; minimum ten per six weeks
- Semester exams will count 1/7 of the semester grade
- A letter system (S, N, U) is used to report a student’s conduct based on proper/responsive conduct and citizenship

- Per Board Policy EIA (LOCAL), “The District shall permit a student who meets the criteria detailed in the grading guidelines a reasonable opportunity to redo an assignment or retake a test for which the student received a failing grade. This policy applies only to initial identified major grades and does not apply to daily assignments, quizzes, six-week test, and semester final examinations. Upon reteach and retest, the new test, project, etc. recorded will be a high score of 70%.
- Official grades will be in Skyward only and can be accessed by student and parent through Family Access.

Assignments, exams, expectations outside of the classroom:

Students should be prepared to work on educational assignments beyond the school mandated hours. This may require students to extend their learning environment at home. This extended time should be viewed as an opportunity to use additional time to improve their assignments

Attendance/Tardy Policy/Make-Up Work:

Late work is defined as any assignment not turned in on the assigned date unless the date is altered by the teacher at his/her discretion.

Important late work notes:

The following guidelines are required of ALL high school courses and teachers, at their discretion, may use these guidelines; however, in attempts to accomplish the highest degree of mastery represented by earned grades, teachers may accept late work as they discern is best for their students.

This requirement does not nullify or replace any established campus procedures in place related to ‘no zeros.

Classroom Expectations:

Classroom expectations: Students should come prepared to class everyday with an open mind set for learning. Be prepared to engage the lesson being presented and be fully aware of the needs of themselves and the students around them.

All outside work that is assigned needs to be completed in a timely manner as assigned by the teacher.

Preliminary Schedule of Topics, Readings, and Assignments

The general scope and sequence of the 8th. Grade Connects course is based in a foundation of “units”. Each unit varies in length of time and will cover the essential elements that are required by the state of Texas educational system in preparing each student to be successful.

Academic Integrity:

Academic integrity values the work of individuals regardless if it is another student’s work, a researcher, or author. The pursuit of learning requires each student to be responsible for his or her academic work. Academic dishonesty is not tolerated in our schools. Academic dishonesty includes cheating, copying the work of another student, plagiarism, and unauthorized communication between students during an examination. The determination that a student has engaged in academic dishonesty shall be based on the judgment of the classroom teacher or other supervising professional employee and considers written materials, observation, or information from students. Students found to have engaged in academic dishonesty shall be subject to disciplinary and/or academic penalties. The teacher and campus administrator shall jointly determine such action.