**Mr. Butkevich’s Social Issues Class**

[**nbutkevich@tamdistrict.org**](mailto:nbutkevich@tamdistrict.org)

COURSE OUTLINE

This class deals with a variety of issues that teenagers face and how to cope with them in line with your values and goals. The second purpose of this class is to improve your writing and research skills in anticipation of the expectations your 10th-12th grade social studies teachers will have for you.

*There will be times* *when* we will discuss things that are new and fascinating to you. Take advantage of those times to listen to the experiences of others, ask questions, and maximize your learning.

*There will be times* *when* we will discuss things that are fascinating to some of your classmates, but are boring or ancient news to you. Remember how you felt when you first had your eyes opened to these topics and help your classmates to maximize their experience by sharing your knowledge and respecting their growth. Validate their experiences, don’t condescend or talk over them.

*There will be times* *when* we will discuss something that some of your classmates will be uncomfortable with. Again, **respect** that they are coming from different places than you are. Analyze how best to help them to grow. Be patient and respectful.

*There will be times* *when* we will discuss topics that you are uncomfortable with. That’s OK. Realize **you’re definitely not the only one who is uncomfortable**, no matter what everybody says, and do your best to overcome it.

**Here is the general break down for the semester**

Unit 1 – Who am I, what are my values and goals?

Unit 2 – Wellness (stress, depression, moderation with technology)

Unit 3 – Substance abuse (illegal drugs, alcohol, prescription drugs)

Unit 4 – Relationships (friends, dating, sexual health)

Class Website: http://butkevich.weebly.com (“Social Issues”)

Email: Write to [nbutkevich@tamdistrict.org](mailto:nbutkevich@tamdistrict.org)

**Main Requirements**

1. A research paper. **Completing it is a requirement to pass the class.**
2. Community service hours. **10 are required. Every hour that isn’t completed = 1% off your overall grade.**

**Grading:**

Classwork: 40%.

Homework: 20%

Research Paper: 40%

CONFIDENTIALITY

We all agree to keep what comes up in the class confidential unless it is dangerous to yourself or others to do so. The amount of pleasure gained by sharing private or personal information outside of class is minimal compared to the damage done to that person by gossip.

RIGHT TO PASS

Each person has the right to *not* talk when they don’t want to. All of you have the right to leave the classroom for a short break if the subject matter makes you too uncomfortable.

**\*\*\*I do not round up grades or offer last-minute extra credit.\*\*\*** Please keep up with the work. If there is a medical or personal issue that is getting in the way of you completing your work, please let me know early so that we can figure out a plan for you to succeed.

**Classroom Rules:**

1. Ask permission before leaving the room.

2. Raise your hand before speaking.

3. Food and gum are provisionally OK. The first time this leads to a mess left behind after class is the last time they will be permitted.

4. Electronic devices should always be in the pocket chart. Don’t get your phone Snatcheviched! If your family needs to call you, the main office’s number is (415) 924-6200. Please share this number with them.

5. Off-task web sites = a grade penalty.

**Make Up Work** You can make up work for full credit if you have an **excused absence**, but it is your responsibility to find out what you missed and to get it done quickly. If it’s an **unexcused absence**, you will get a late penalty.

**Unexcused absences on the day of an assessment will result in a grade penalty. Don’t Ditchevich!**

**Do I Need Anything for this Class?** A binder. If a handout has holes in it, you should put it there.

We have reviewed the syllabus and understand the above-mentioned policies.

Student Signature \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Signature \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_