**Corbin High School**

**Social Studies Department**

**Law and Justice**

**2014-2015 School Year**



INSTRUCTOR: Mrs. Sarah Watkins

CLASS ROOM: D202

PLANNING PERIOD: 2nd period

SCHOOL PHONE: 606.528.3902 x. 4202

EMAIL: [sarah.watkins@corbin.kyschools.us](mailto:sarah.watkins@corbin.kyschools.us)

Welcome back to Corbin High School and to my Law and Justice elective course. I am excited about this school year and I hope you are as well. I know you are probably unsure about the class and you don’t know what to expect, but as long as you participate and try hard, you will do well. Here is a look at my class:

**I. Course Description**

This course is a survey of the basic workings of the American judicial system. Following a brief introduction to fundamental legal/judicial concepts, students will have the opportunity to apply these concepts through a series of mock trials, each emphasizing different aspects of the law. Students will have the opportunity to fulfill all roles that make the court system functional, including attorneys, witnesses, judges, and jury members.

**II. Course Information and Requirements**

1. Attendance: You are expected to attend this class every day. It is very easy to fall behind in this class when you have poor attendance. Therefore, regular attendance is absolutely expected. Students who are absent *with an excuse* have **three days** (or the number of days that have been missed if over two) after they return to school to make up missed exams, quizzes, and assignments. Students who are absent *without an excuse* may not make up missed work.

Procedure for Absences:

1. Get notes from a classmate.
2. Get missed handouts from the box by my desk.
3. All missed tests/quizzes are to be made up afterschool. I will not remind you make up an exam.

The best rule of thumb to remember when you are absent is that **you are responsible.** You must take care of making up the missed day(s) as soon as you return to school.

1. Tardiness: Tardiness in my classroom is not tolerated. Not only do you miss out on class time, but you interrupt the class time of everyone else. Tardiness at CHS is defined as arriving to class any time after the tardy bell has rung. Being more than five minutes tardy constitutes as skipping class and you will be reported to the assistant principal. *We begin class as soon as you enter the classroom*. There will be an assignment for you to work on, so you must not be tardy. The door will be locked, so come to class on time.
2. Class Materials: I require all of my students to come prepared to class. You must have a pencil/pen, course textbook, and your class notebook. There is extra paper, pencils, etc. in the back of the classroom, so there is no reason to not have your class materials.

What you will need:

1. A three-ring binder (1 inch)
2. Loose leaf paper
3. A pencil and pen
4. A highlighter (for trial packets)
5. Restroom Policy: I don’t like it when people leave class. The school allots breaks between classes, so I expect you to use the restroom during this time. If you have a medical need and must leave the classroom throughout the year, please see me as soon as possible and I will be more than happy to work with you. Otherwise, no one should ask to leave the classroom.
6. Grading: I will use the standard grading policy as listed in your Student Handbook. You must maintain a minimum average of 60% or better on all course work.

Grading Percentages (1000 points possible)

1. 60% Mock Trials (600 points)

3 Mock Trials and Preparation (200 points each)

1. 30% Exams/Quizzes (300 points)

2 Unit Exams (100 points each)

4 quizzes (50 points each)

1. 10% Class Assignments (100 points)
2. Text Alerts: If you would like to receive text reminders about upcoming assignments, exams, or activities, simply text @CORBINLAW to the number 23559. You will receive a confirmation message when you have successfully enrolled.

1. Behavioral Expectations: You all know how to act in class. Show respect. Work hard. Do your best. Don’t pack until the bell rings. No phones. You know what is appropriate and what is not. I do expect a lot out of you and you can expect a lot from me. If there is a problem, it will most definitely be dealt with and done so in an expedient manner.
2. Course Units of Study:

Unit 1: Intro to Law and Justice

Unit 2: Mock Trial Procedures

Unit 3: **Mock Trial #1: Murder**

Unit 4: Criminal Law and the Juvenile System

Unit 5: **Mock Trial #2: Manslaughter and Juvenile Delinquency**

Unit 6: **Mock Trial #3:** **Class Pick**

Know that I am here for you and I want to help. My job is to make sure you get this and you do well. Enjoy this class, take it serious, and come every day with an open mind and I’m sure we will have an awesome year.

**III. Communication with Parents**: I like to stay in contact with the parents of all my students to not only let them know how you are progressing, but to keep them up-to-date with what we are studying each week and what exams/assignments are upcoming. I am sure you are thrilled about this, but it really does benefit you, I promise. Because of this, I would like for you to let your parent or guardian to read over this syllabus and bring this part back to me on or before Friday, November 8th.

Parent,

I look forward to speaking with you this year. Please know I value your time and I appreciate your efforts to help me teach your student. It always reflects so well on your character when I have parents who are interested and really care about their student’s education. I want to make myself available to you at your convenience. You may contact me via email or school phone, or we can schedule to conference if you would like. I would also like to contact you on a regular basis, whether it is upcoming assignments or just to let you know how your student is progressing thus far.

Also, if you would like, you can receive **text reminders** about homework assignments in the course. These are automatically sent to students, but if you would like to get the same messages as well, simply text @CORBINLAW to the number 23559. You will receive a confirmation message when you have successfully enrolled.

Thank you,

Mrs. Sarah Watkins

CHS Social Studies Dept.

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Please indicate what method of contact is best for you:

\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ -\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

OR

\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

I have read and understand the syllabus for this course and

agree to abide by the rules defined above.

Student Name (Printed): \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Student Signature: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Parent Signature: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Do you as a parent enroll in text alerts? YES NO