

# Peers as Partners in Learning



## Course Description

This course is designed to provide reciprocal academic and social benefits to students with disabilities and their peers without disabilities. Students will learn and apply knowledge and skilled practices in the areas of academic engagement, communication, social barriers, leadership, problem solving, and other disability-related topics such as historical perspectives, inclusion, Universal Design for Learning, person-first language, presumed competence, social justice for minority populations, and media representation of diverse people.

## Mr. Austin

\*The preferred means of communication is:

- Microsoft Teams Chat

You may also contact me via email:

- gregg.austin@Sumter.k12.fl.us

## Primary Text:

While there is no particular textbook, you will be assigned various readings intended to explore various topics, situational problem solving skills, and navigating social issues.

## Course Goals

- Understand legal rights of people with disabilities and their families.
- Apply the concepts of confidentiality and self determination.
- Awareness and understanding of disability rights issues.
- Apply methods for problem-solving and advocacy.
- Promote learning for people with disabilities through academic, communication, physical, and social supports
- Facilitate meaningful peer relationships.
- Facilitate team and cooperative learning skills among all students.
- Application of critical thinking and decision-making skills.
- Contribute to the community via civic responsibility.
- Assess and evaluate the impact of course efforts on self and others.

## "Classroom" Expectations:

1. Be on time.
2. In attendance every day and for the entire class period.
3. All personal electronic devices are prohibited unless told otherwise.
4. Respond to the needs of the students in the classroom.
5. Be responsive to the teacher's directions.
6. Comply with all laws regarding the health, disability, and academic privacy rights of other students.
7. Behave appropriately with respect to relationships with other students.
8. Enhance, encourage, and empower classroom students to achieve educational goals.
9. Regularly check for announcements and communication via Teams and Skyward.

**Academic Honesty Policy:** Violations of the academic honesty policy includes willful or deliberate unauthorized use of the work of another person for academic purposes, or inappropriate use of notes, or other material in the completion of an academic assignment or test. Plagiarism of any sort is also constituted as a violation of the Academic Honesty Policy. In addition to disciplinary responses, the granting of credit for this assignment may be considered null and void.

### **Grading Policy:**

Your grade is primarily determined by your performance in the classroom and activities assigned for practice learned skills.

<b><u>Category</u></b>	<b><u>Percentage of Quarter Grade</u></b>
Performance	10
	50
Practice	40

**Performance:** 10% *(includes but not limited to)*

- Evaluation(s) by your assigned classroom teacher in consultation with Mr. Austin

**Performance:** 50% *(includes but not limited to)*

- Actions in the classroom (attendance, punctuality, observations)
- Journaling
- Tests and Quizzes

**Practice:** 40% *(includes but not limited to)*

- Assignments in furtherance of learning and building skills
- Assignments related to laws, rights, and responsibilities
- Role-playing, seminars, and contributions to group discussions
- Any other assignments deemed necessary

#### **Absences and Late assignments**

- For any excused absence, one day for each day absent will be given to complete the required work.
- For any unexcused absence, a failing grade will be recorded in the class/classes in which graded work was recorded for the day. Students who make up work missed during an unexcused absence, even for a suspension, may earn up to a grade of 59%.
- For additional details, refer to the Sumter County School Pupil Progression Plan.

*“Whether you think you can or you think you can't, you're right.”*

~Henry Ford

### **Also know**

- Most texts, assignments, and directions can be found in Teams and/or OneNote
- All student work must include the proper heading.
- All assignments are due at the beginning of the class period in which you are enrolled.
- Written assignments must be written in blue or black ink and should be completed on college ruled paper.
- Absent / Missing Work:
  - ◊ If, in the case of an absence, a class assignment is not easily made-up Teams, an alternative assignment may be given.
  - ◊ It is your responsibility to make-up any missed work and/or tests in accordance with the District's attendance policy.
- Extra credit is not available
- \* Even though Skyward may indicate that an asterisk means missing, actually, asterisks in Skyward only indicate that the item is not scored--a zero means it's missing.
- *Mr. Austin reserves the right to modify the syllabus at any time.*

### **Student and Parent/Guardian acknowledgement**

Print Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_

date: \_\_\_\_\_

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

Print Parent Name: \_\_\_\_\_

date: \_\_\_\_\_

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