



Sage Creek High School

Course Syllabus
Mr. Nash
Directed Studies
Room 2200

2021-2022

Course Title

Directed Studies

Purpose of the Course

Directed Studies is a course for students who qualify for special education services through an Individual Education Plan (IEP). The course is designed to provide specialized academic instruction of general education content to students with IEPs. The course uses a variety of approaches to meet the individual needs of the students. Approaches used to help special education students be successful in their general education courses include strategy intervention, differentiated instruction, and tutorial assistance. The course is intended to provide special education students with the skills that are necessary to successfully transition into the academic life of a high school student.

Course Materials

Students are expected to have the following material daily:

- District-issued Chromebook
- Writing utensils
- Folder to keep materials
- Necessary materials to complete content course assignments (i.e. course notes, books, calculator, etc.)
- Personal Planning System (i.e hard-copy planner or electronic device for planning)
- Book to read for pleasure

Grading Formula

Percent	Grade	Percent	Grade
93	A	73	C
90	A-	70	C-
88	B+	68	D+
83	B	63	D
80	B-	60	D-
78	C+	59>	F

Assignment Values

The SCHS Student Support Services department will use the following categories to organize students' "H.A.B.I.T." grades. Essentially, students are expected to come to class with all needed materials, lead conversations about their progress and workloads, take initiative toward work completion, seek support,

utilize class time productively, and stay on task. Each day is awarded 1 point per category, totaling 5 points possible per day. Those points are then averaged for the week to provide a weekly "HABIT" score. In addition to these in-class behaviors and skills, students will also receive grades for assignments and activities assigned in Directed Studies, including transitional activities and study skills lessons.

<u>Professionalism</u>	<u>40%</u>
Homework Preparedness	10%
Behavior	10%
Initiative	10%
Time on Task	10%
<u>Classwork</u>	<u>60%</u>
Daily Check In/Agenda/Planner	20%
DS Assignments	20%
DS Projects/Exams	20%

Late Work

All assignments are due by midnight on the day they are due and assignment due dates are pushed back one day for each day of an excused absence.

Each day an assignment is submitted past the due date will result in a ten percent assignment grade deduction. Consideration will be given for extenuating circumstances. **It is the responsibility of each student to proactively communicate with me in advance of the due date if they need extra time to complete a Directed Studies class assignment.** Examples of circumstances I will accept to extend an assignment due date include, but are not limited to, a student experiencing a heavy workload in other classes, a student requiring extra academic assistance during my Directed Studies class, or a student who is experiencing emotional duress. Aside from a previously communicated instance of emotional duress, a student must be academically engaged during the entire class period to receive a due date extension.

Professionalism Grade (Weekly Participation)

The student's weekly professionalism grade, listed in the gradebook as Weekly Participation, reflects the qualities employers look for in an employee and is an attempt to answer the following question: If this student was my employee, would their week's performance cause me as an employer to want to keep them as an employee, promote them, or terminate their employment status? In efforts to prepare students for the expectations found in the college setting and/or in the workforce and in support of the CCSS' expectations for anchor standards, directed studies students will be awarded a "Time on Task".

This includes, but is not limited to:

- Being in class on time and ready to work
- Having appropriate materials
- Being on task (and looking busy at all times)
- Being respectful
- Being proactive (doing your job BEFORE being told to do it)

1). Homework

Throughout the week students will participate in cooperative learning groups to help provide them additional instruction in their core academic courses. The groups will be formed based on student needs. Students will also be working independently on homework while in Directed Studies. It is necessary that they bring all assignments, materials, and directions to complete homework thoroughly.

2). Agenda/Planner

Through the Directed Studies Curriculum and course activities, organizational skills are taught and reinforced. Students are expected to participate in activities that will improve their ability to organize both their materials and their time. Students will be expected to create and use a personal planning system to help them to manage and prioritize their assignments, activities and responsibilities within a timely manner.

3). Behavior

Students are encouraged to work cooperatively and independently while in Directed Studies. They will earn credit for positive attitudes, compliance and following directions the first time given.

4). Initiative/Self Advocacy

In Directed Studies students will have opportunities to improve and master their self-advocacy skills. They will participate in lessons and activities with the intent that they will be able to transfer these skills into the general education setting.

Aeries

Aeries is our school-wide system that provides communication regarding grades and assignments. Our school-wide goal is to update Aeries on a weekly basis (by Friday evening). The SCHS Student Support department intends to meet this goal. It is our expectation that students also regularly check their grades and assignments on Aeries. Students will be given an opportunity to check Aeries daily in Directed Studies and update their planning as needed. We also encourage them to check Aeries again after school either at home or in the library as teachers may not post grades and assignments during the school day.

Student Expectations

Be your **B.E.S.T.**

Establish Community

Show Respect

Take Responsibility

- Students are expected to behave professionally and respectfully both in and out of the classroom.
- Students are expected to treat their peers, teachers, and themselves with respect.
- Students are expected to be in your assigned seat with your materials ready when the time the bell rings. The bell starts the class, and the teacher dismisses the students.
- Students are expected to communicate appropriately with teachers and peers.
- Unless directed by the teacher for instructional use, electronic devices (iPods, Cell Phones,

- Gaming Devices, etc.) must be off and put away during class.
- When absent from class, it is the student's responsibility to get the missed notes and assignment(s).

Course Topics and Objectives:

Topics:

- Assignment Fully Completed and Adequate Detail Provided

Objectives:

At the end of this course students will improve their ability to:

- Maintain an organized planner and materials
- Organize and track assignments in general education courses
- Complete assignments in a timely manner
- Prepare for exams
- Effectively communicate individual needs with teachers and support staff