

Course Syllabus for 8th Grade Yearbook

St. Johns Middle School

St. Johns, Michigan

Teacher	Email	Phone
Mrs. Schalla Swab	swabs@sjredwings.org	989-227-4377

Dear Parents/Guardians,

After reading through the syllabus, please take the time to fill out and return the back page of this letter. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me at any time during the school year. I am looking forward to a productive and successful year!

Sincerely,

Mrs. Swab

Course Description:

This is a full year elective course. Students need excellent computer and technology skills in order to thrive throughout this class. Students will be responsible for creating and completing the Yearbook for St. Johns Middle School and the end-of-the year slideshow compilation that will be displayed at 8th grade Honors Night. Students in this class must have good writing and spelling skills. It is recommended that they have experience with photography and photo editing techniques. There will be times students may need to attend school activities after school hours. After all deadlines are met, students will complete assignments based on the ELA Common Core State Standards.

**** It is highly recommended that students taking this class have a high level of computer and technical abilities, a good work ethic, and a mature attitude. This class offers a great amount of individual freedom and therefore the student must be trustworthy, cooperative, and self-motivated.***

Goals of Course:

Our main objective in this course is to successfully create and distribute the St. Johns Middle School Yearbook. In doing so, I hope to instill responsibility, teamwork, and a hard work ethic among my students. The creation of our yearbook will primarily take place in the classroom with little homework to do; however, we will need students to attend extra-curricular activities, such as sporting events, choir/band concerts, clubs, etc. in order to capture photos of such events.

Resources Provided:

Classroom laptops with internet access and school- provided digital cameras will be provided (students do not need to provide their own camera or laptop.)

Personal technology use is a privilege, not a right. Students are allowed to bring in devices to school, provided they adhere to the following guidelines:

1. Devices must be clearly labeled with the student's first and last name.
2. If the device has 3G or 4G capability, it must be disabled at school. Disabling the 3G and 4G options ensures that students will be visiting appropriate sites only while at school.
3. With permission, students may text or call parents from their personal devices in the office. Students are not to make other personal phone calls or send texts during class or passing.
4. Assuming they earn the privilege at the start of the school year, student may be allowed to use their devices on the lunch hour to play games, read, or listen to music.

St. Johns Public Schools accepts no liability if a student chooses to bring a device to school. The school district or any employee cannot accept any responsibility for damage, loss, or theft. Families should carefully consider the risks before choosing to send a device to school.

Acceptable Use and Student Technology:

Student technology may be used in class at the teacher's discretion. To manage student device use, we follow the "STUDENT NETWORK AND INTERNET ACCEPTABLE USE AND SAFETY" policy located in the Technology Plan (<http://www.sjredwings.org/technology-plan/>).

Grading Scale:

SJMS percentage grading scale.

A 100-93	C 76-73
A- 92-90	C- 72-70
B+ 89-87	D+ 69-67
B 86-83	D 66-63
B- 82-80	D- 62-60
C+ 79-77	E 59-0

Grades are based on deadlines met, participation, responsibility, motivation, team work, attitude, and Common Core type assignments.

Behavioral Expectations:

I hold high standards when it comes to behavior in and out of the classroom. I expect that students treat others with respect, listen to others, follow directions, and take responsibility for their actions. Students- whether they be in or out of the classroom- are not only a representation of themselves, but also of this class and our school as well.

Student/Parent Agreement and Contact Information:

My child is: _____

Parent Signature **Date**

Student Signature **Date**