



**Cicely L. Tyson**

**Course Syllabus**

**Fall/Spring 2017-2018**

**Mrs. Giron  
Special Education  
Room 109**

### **Welcome and Introduction**

It is with great pride that I welcome you to the 2017-2018 school year at Cicely L. Tyson Middle/High of Performing Arts. My name is Mrs. Giron and I will be your child's teacher. I am looking forward to educating your child this academically stimulating and supportive environment! Your child will begin this school year reviewing and reinforcing previously learned concepts in preparation for their grade curriculum. Our year will then process to continually challenging each student to work the best of his/her ability in mastering educational concepts in all subject areas.

I have very high expectations for all my students and truly believe that through respect, teamwork, parent participation, and cooperation all students will be able to achieve greatness. I believe these key elements will provide a foundation for the success and well being of everyone. Assisting your child with their daily homework or listening to them read aloud, parents/guardians will help to strengthen and support the school environment.

It is very important to read all attached information carefully and share it with your children. It is necessary to read and review Mrs. Giron Contract, which should be signed and dated by both parents and students by September 5, 2017. The prompt return of this document is your child's first classroom assignment! Thank you in advance for your cooperation in helping to make this school year an enjoyable education experience for all!!

## **Course Description**

The focus of this class is on English 3, English 4, Early United States History, Modern United States History and Math Proficiency Development and (secondary). The new school year will certainly offer new challenges, but I will ensure you that your children are challenge to their farthest ability in these subjects areas and socially as well.

## **Course Theme (overarching ideal)**

Special education is about making sure that every single child has the opportunity to learn  
By: Elizabeth Kozleski, Ed.D

## **Course Goals/Essential Questions**

### **Language Arts**

- \* Discuss knowledge that is necessary for success in college and beyond.
- \* Discuss the use of technology and digital media strategically.
- \* Discuss how to comprehend as well as critique and value evidence.
- \* Discuss and respond to the varying demands of audience, task, purpose, and discipline.
- \* Discuss and understand other perspectives and cultures.
- \* Discuss and identify nonfiction text features.
- \* Discuss the use of appropriate comprehension strategies for nonfiction text.
- \* Discuss new vocabulary.
- \* Discuss and read for meaning.

### **Essential Questions**

What are nonfiction texts?

Why is it important nowadays to use technology and digital media?

Why is it important to understand other cultures?

### **History**

- \* Discuss knowledge to build vocabulary.
- \* Discuss biography, literature activities, and primary source activities.
- \* Discuss History and Geography.
- \* Discuss Social Studies skill activities.
- \* Discuss focus on writing activities.
- \* Discuss chapter reviews

### **Essential Questions**

What is a biography?

Why is it important to learn about Geography?

What is literature?

### **Math**

- \* Discuss addition and subtraction
- \* Discuss multiplication facts
- \* Discuss division
- \* Discuss whole numbers
- \* Discuss number theory
- \* Discuss fractions
- \* Discuss decimals
- \*Percent

## **Essential Questions**

What are whole numbers?

What are prime numbers?

What are composite?

## **Science**

- DNA
- RNA and Protein Synthesis
- Human Heredity
- Genetic Engineering
- Darwin's Theory of Evolution
- Evolution of Population
- Classification
- History of Life
- Viruses and Prokaryotes
- Protists and Fungi
- Introduction to Plants

### **Essential Questions**

What is Biology?

What is the structure of DNA, and how does it function in genetic inheritance?

How can we use genetics to study human inheritance?

How and why do scientists manipulate DNA in living cells?

## **Methods of Instruction**

### **Active Learning**

Is a process whereby students engage in activities, such as reading, writing, discussion, or problem solving that promote analysis, synthesis, and evaluation of class content. Cooperative learning, problem-based learning, and the use of case methods and simulations are some approaches that promote active learning.

### **Discussion**

Are a variety of forums for open-ended, collaborative exchange of ideas among a teacher and students or among students for the purpose of furthering students thinking, learning, problem solving, understanding, or literary appreciation.

### **Teacher-Centered Approach to Learning**

Teachers are the main authority figure in this model. Student's role is to passively receive information (via lectures and direct instruction) with an end goal of testing and assessment. It is the primary role of teachers to pass knowledge and information onto their students. In this model, teaching and assessment are viewed as two separate entities. Student learning is measured through objectively scored tests and assessments.

### **Student-Centered Approach to Learning**

While teachers are an authority figure in this model, teachers and students play an equally active role in the learning process. The teacher's primary role is to coach and facilitate student learning and overall comprehension of material. Student learning is measured through both formal and

informal forms of assessment, including group projects, student portfolios, and class participation. Teaching and assessment are connected; student learning is continuously measured during teacher instruction. **Cooperative Learning**

refers to a method of teaching and classroom management that emphasizes group work and a strong sense of community.

### **Cooperative Learning**

Refers to a method of teaching and classroom management that emphasizes group work and a strong sense of community. This model fosters students' academic and social growth and includes teaching techniques such as "Think-Pair-Share" and reciprocal teaching. Cooperative learning falls under the student-centered approach because learners are placed in responsibility of their learning and development. This method focuses on the belief that students learn best when working with and learning from their peers.

### **Inquiry-Based Learning**

Is a teaching method that focuses on student investigation and hands-on learning. In this method, the teacher's primary role is that of a facilitator, providing guidance and support for students through the learning process. Inquiry-based learning falls under the student-centered approach, in that students play an active and participatory role in their own learning process.

### **Direct Instruction**

Is the general term that refers to the traditional teaching strategy that relies on explicit teaching through lectures and teacher-led demonstrations. Direct instruction is the primary teaching strategy under the teacher-centered approach, in that teachers and professors are the sole supplier of knowledge and information. Direct instruction is effective in teaching basic and fundamental skills across all content areas.

### **Course Component Specifics**

Our classroom rules, guidelines, and procedures are important key elements to a safe and positive learning environment and will be referred to often! I strongly encourage all rules, guidelines, policies, and procedures as well as those outline in our school handbook be read and discussed carefully to avoid any negative situations. We all want to experience a cooperative and successful school year! An orderly and safe classroom leads to a productive and positive learning environment. Plagiarism and cheating have no place in a community of scholars. You need to have the confidence in yourself to give your original best. This is all that is required of you to do for this classroom.

### **Classroom Rules**

1. Follow directions the first time they are given
2. Respect others
3. Respect school property
4. Raise your hand to be classed on
5. Be prepared for class every day
6. Be in uniform and wear it properly
7. Observe all school handbook rules (no running, no fighting, no bullying, etc.)

### **Daily Classroom Guidelines and Procedures**

1. Students are to enter the classroom in an orderly manner with the necessary supplies each day.

(Necessary supplies include: assigned book, completed homework in appropriate pocket folder, notebooks, paper, pencil/pen.

2. Students are to sit in assigned seats and quietly begin daily and bell work.
3. Students are to listen carefully and actively participate in the daily lesson of each subject.
4. Students are to raise their hands and politely wait to be acknowledged by teacher. Lesson related questions and comments are always encouraged!
5. Students are not allowed to walk around classroom
6. Students are to respect themselves and other at all times. No touching other students or other student's property at any time. Teacher's desk and personal property are OFF limits to students.
7. At no time is inappropriate language to be used!
8. Homework should be returned daily inside homework folders first thing in the morning. Students should study for quizzes or test, which will be given on Fridays or Mondays.
9. No late work will be accepted-except in case of a student's absence. Missing work will count as 0%.
10. Students are to leave the classroom in an orderly manner! Our classroom is to remain neat and clean as possible. No food is allowed during guided class time!

### **Discipline Policy**

Failure to follow the classroom rules, guidelines, and procedures will result in:

**First Offense-** Student will be given a verbal warning and is redirected also parent will be informed on daily behavior report.

**Second Offense-** Student will lose a privilege and contact will be made with parent/guardian via telephone regarding the incident. Parental support and reinforcement of positive behavior is expected.

**Third Offense-** Student will receive a formal written documenting misconduct. The referral will be sent to the office and parents/guardians notified. Depending on the offense a conference may be required.

### **Homework Policy**

Your student's homework will be given daily in spelling and in the other subject areas when necessary. Homework will be placed inside pocket folder daily and should be returned daily inside pocket folder at the beginning of each morning. 10-15 minutes of reading is required daily to enhance reading fluency. It is expected that parents will assist students with their homework in a quiet environment. All assignments are due on the assigned date. No late work will be accepted-except in the case of student's absence or written explanation from the parent/guardian. Missing work will count as 0% and a late assignment if accepted are subjected to decrease in grade.

### **Course Requirements and Grading**

Projects/Research 20%

Homework 10%

Test 25

Quizzes 20%

Class Participation/Classwork 25%

### **General Information**

All work must be completed on time.

Late assignments will not be accepted without a justification note.

Projects/Research must be typed.

In general, there will be notes given each week related to the chapters assigned.

### **Grading Scale:**

A+ Excellent 97-100

A Excellent 95-93

A- Excellent 92-90

B+ Very Good 86-89

B Good 83-85

B- Good 80-82

C+ Average 76-79

C Average 73-75

C- Average 70-72

D+ Poor 66-69

D Poor 63-65

D- Poor 60-62

F Failing 0-59

S Satisfactory 60-100

U Unsatisfactory 0-59

### **Conduct Codes**

1= Excellent behavior

2= Fair behavior

3= Poor behavior

### **Teacher Comments**

#### **Positive Characteristics**

1. Display courtesy and respect
2. Attend to teacher direction
3. Completes tasks to the best of his/hers ability
4. Participation in class discussion
5. Willingly does more work then required
6. Works well independently
7. Comes to class prepared with books/materials
8. Is on time for class
9. Attends class on a daily basis
10. Is cooperative with school personnel and peers
11. Has a positive attitude and is eager to learn

#### **Needs**

12. Needs to be prepared/come to class on time
13. Needs to be more regular in class attendance
14. Needs to improve behavior/less disruptive
15. Needs to study thoroughly for test/quizzes
16. Needs to make up all missed work promptly
17. Needs to improve class attitude/inattentive
18. Needs to improve upon classroom participation

19. Needs to complete assigned homework on time
20. Needs to apply him/herself-lacks seriousness
21. Parental conference requested
22. Is In Danger of Failing

### **Field Trips**

Many field trips are planned throughout the year. Student participation is essential as field trips reinforce academic goals and are quite enjoyable! Students must display behavior in accordance with school handbook in order to attend. All permission slips must be signed by parent/guardian and turned in by designated time before a student will be allowed to attend. All money for students and chaperones permission slip must also be turned in by designated time.

### **Birthdays**

Birthday treats are always welcomed and enjoyed in the lunchroom during lunch period only. Birthday celebrations are no longer permitted, but if parents really want their child to celebrate their birthday with their classmates then teacher will ask for permission from the principal to accommodate the request. However, there are times that the principal might say no so we cannot get upset in case this happens. There are regulations in school that we must follow so that our school can progress better.

### **Diversity Statement:**

Cicely L. Tyson Community School of Performing and Fine Arts challenges students academically, socially, and emotionally through a course of study that includes an advanced level of training in a specific arts discipline within the context of a comprehensive college preparatory middle/high school. We are committed to:

- \*Fostering relationships through partnership with the Arts community, institutions of higher learning, and community-based organizations,
- \*Promoting a culture that respects and celebrates harmony in diversity, and
- \* Achieving academic excellence

**" WE AIM HIGH. WE SOAR HIGH"**

**In the event of extenuating circumstances, the schedule and requirements for these subjects may be modified.**

**Hopefully, I have provided you with helpful information regarding my classroom!**

### **How to Reach me**

Please feel free to contact me at any time with any of your questions, concerns, or comments; email me at [jennifer.orellana-giron@eastorange.k12.nj.us](mailto:jennifer.orellana-giron@eastorange.k12.nj.us)

List of FusionPages

- **Classrooms**
- **Special Education- Jennifer Giron**

