

## **Ask the McKinley teacher: What are your Advisories?**

*(Listed alphabetically by teacher)*

### Mr. Baker – 6th Grade – World Geography and Geopolitics

"Picture this: It's summer of 1989, four years before the internet went public, and a 6 year old boy is sitting in his Midwestern home with nothing to do...Later in the year, the boy's mom, dad, and baby brother are planning to travel to Germany. The boy doesn't know where Germany is, so he picks up a dusty atlas he sees on the coffee table. As he opens the atlas, it's like the world has opened-up to him: pictures of landforms, maps of the world, and even maps of the ocean floor !The boy was lost in his imagination of the pictures. Little did the boy know, that when he arrived in Berlin six months later, the world was going through a monumental historical change: The Berlin Wall was coming down, marking the end of the Soviet Era, the Soviet occupation of East Berlin, and a wave of Democratic protests swept through the U.S.S.R...That 6 year old boy was me, your teacher, Mr. Baker. In my elective class, students will be able to analyze the impact of international relations and politics, and how they are impacted by political and physical geography. Just like my experience as a boy, I believe geography is taught best when paired with a good story."-Mr. Baker

Picture of Mr. Baker at the Berlin Wall on November 9th, 1989, right before I heard laughing, had a microphone shoved in my face by a reporter, asked a question in German, I didn't know how to answer so I ran to my parents.



### Mr. Fierge – 7<sup>th</sup> Grade – Junior Achievement

The class I will be teaching this year is called “Advisory” or “Junior Achievement”, but the class’ instruction will be split into 3 different sections: 1) Financial Literacy 2) Entrepreneurship and 3) Career Exploration. These topics and what is taught in this class are what we believe each student should have the opportunity to learn and be equipped with as they mature into adults.

#### Financial Literacy:

- Saving/Spending
- Decision Making
- Budgeting
- Net Worth

#### Entrepreneurship

- Business Ideas
- Creating a Business
- Marketing a Business
- Operating a Business

#### Career Exploration

- Requirements
- Expectations
- Job Fairs

### Mr. Hamilton – 6<sup>th</sup> Grade – Advisory/STEM

STEM Stands for Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math. In this class we will learn about and apply the scientific method, explore the many fields of science, and design our own experiments for the St. Louis Academy of Sciences E-Science Fair.

### Ms. Heibeck – 7<sup>th</sup> Grade – Advisory

My 7<sup>th</sup> period is advisory is designed to provide additional support for 7<sup>th</sup> grade students who need extra support in math to move them to an advanced grade level. My advisory period will be structured to provide additional support and assistance for students in math. I will ensure they have the necessary skills and knowledge of previously covered content to ensure they succeed at their current math course level and move seamlessly to the next.

### Ms. Hemmer – 8<sup>th</sup> Grade – Advisory

8th Grade Developmental Writing focuses on strengthening students' ability to express themselves with the written word, but also when speaking. We will dedicate our time together to journaling for the purpose of clarifying our thinking about personal and global issues. We will study the finer parts of English grammar to bring clarity to our writing. We will analyze poems to understand how best to present them to an audience, and finally, we will learn delivery methods for keeping an audience engaged when speaking.

### Mr. Miller – 7<sup>th</sup> Grade – Current Events

This course is designed to provide students an opportunity to bring awareness to and analyze, recent world events which deeply affect us all. Content will be delivered through reading, watching, researching, and discussing, many relevant current events. This course should be seen as a fun and exciting way to both understand and provide context for countless phenomena that impact our lives and those of others.

### Ms. Plyler – 7<sup>th</sup> Grade – STEM, Period 7

This course will cover investigative methods in various scientific fields and the components and construction of science projects. Students will be guided through the construction of a virtual science project and presentation. At the conclusion of the science fair competition, the students will learn about, design their own, and present Rube Goldberg machines. Bring your interests and creativity to have fun in science!

### Ms. Rao – 6<sup>th</sup> Grade – Speech/Drama

**Course Description:** Speech and Drama is designed to provide students at McKinley with opportunities to speak and perform. A successful student in this course will have developed into a more confident speaker and an improved presenter. The fundamentals of speech will be taught as tools to communicate the students' individual voices and messages.

### Dr. Schmidt – 8<sup>th</sup> Grade – Introduction to Law

**Course Description:** Introduction to Law is a semester-long elective that serves as an introductory course to law and the legal system in the United States. We will explore several legal topics to give students a better understanding of the Criminal Justice System and end the semester with a mock trial.