

Ask the McKinley teacher: What are your Advisories?

(Listed alphabetically by teacher)

Mr. Baker – 6th Grade – “Social Studies Themes and Methods”

Mr. Baker will engage 6th grade students in the 2021-2022 school year in a class entitled, “Social Studies Themes and Methods.” This class is unlike any other social studies class taught in the city of St. Louis. Rather than chronological study of history, this class will allow students to study the social sciences by theme, while participating in engaging activities like mock trials, discussions, guest speakers, short documentary style videos, non-fiction writing, historical fiction, and many other activities.

Mr. Fierge – 7th 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

Ms. Graneto – 8th Grade – Cinematography

This class is designed to show students how film is a form of literature. By viewing some classic and modern American films, students will learn that good film, like good literature, has certain elements in common. Students will be expected to analyze and understand symbolism, metaphors, allusions, plot, theme and other literary elements as they relate to both film and literature. In addition, students will gain an appreciation for the interaction of film elements such as scripting, directing, acting, producing, lighting, sound, music, editing, special effects, set design, and costuming. By the end of this course, students will have produced their own short film as well. Assessments will include discussions, comprehension checks, film reviews, film critique, one test, and our very own, self-made film productions.

Mr. Hamilton – 6th Grade – 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. Hemmer – 8th Developmental Reading

This class is dedicated to reading self-selected novels that will serve as the medium by which students will apply all of the Reading Literary Text Missouri Learning Standards. Over the course of the semester, students will read three novels. For each novel they focus on the application of four of the Learning Standards. Their work will be housed in a log. The learning activities also allow for the application of several of the Writing Standards with some opportunities for creative writing as well.

Mr. Miller – 7th Grade – Current Events

The course labeled as 7th Grade Advisory: is an elective semester long course which explores a broad range of social studies topics. These topics include but are not limited to:

An Introduction to the social sciences with an overview of the methods and models of inquiry used in the fields of social science. Current events. Human-Environment Interaction. Global politics. Micro & Macro Economies. Social Justice & Critical Race Theory. Data collection & Analysis with a focus on Quantitative data VS Qualitative data. Philosophy and History.

Week 1-2= CULTURE

Week 3-4 = TIME, CONTINUITY, AND CHANGE

Week 5-6 = PEOPLE, PLACES, AND ENVIRONMENTS

Week 7-8 INDIVIDUAL DEVELOPMENT AND IDENTITY

Week 9-10 INDIVIDUALS, GROUPS, AND INSTITUTIONS

Week 11-12 POWER, AUTHORITY, AND GOVERNANCE

Week 13-14 PRODUCTION, DISTRIBUTION AND CONSUMPTION

Week 15-16 SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, AND SOCIETY

Week 17-18 GLOBAL CONNECTIONS

Week 19-20 CIVIC IDEALS AND PRACTICES

Ms. Plyler – 7th Grade – STEM

The goal of this elective is to train students how to safely conduct independent scientific research. They will explore various scientific fields, including at least one of their own choosing. We will begin with our focus on laboratory safety, an essential component of all scientific research. The students will learn and practice research methods, experimental procedures, and presentation skills.

Ms. Rao – 6th 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 – 8th 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.

Ms. Stortzum – 8th Grade STEM