



## Introduction to Law 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Social Studies Elective Dr. Schmidt, Room 238

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.

Course Materials: We will be using selected chapters from *Street Law: A Course in Practical Law* as well as other supplemental materials, including lessons designed around video clips from the TV series “Law & Order” and “Homicide Life on the Streets.”

### Units of Study:

- Unit 1: Intro to Law and the Legal System
  - What is Law?
  - The Court System
  - Lawyers
- Unit 2: Criminal Law
  - Crime in America
  - Introduction to Criminal Law
  - Crimes Against Person
- Crimes Against Property
- Defenses
- Unit 3: Criminal Justice Process
  - The Investigation Phase
  - Proceedings Before Trial
  - The Trial
  - Sentencing and Corrections
  - Mock Trial – Fairy Tale on Trial

### Course Expectations:

- RULES FOR CIVIL CONVERSATION
  - Everyone in your group should participate in the conversation.
  - Listen carefully to what others are saying.
  - Ask clarifying questions if you do not understand a point raised.
  - Be respectful of what others are saying.
  - Support your ideas with established fact
- Be Prepared for Class
  - Notebook / Binder
  - Pen and pencil
- It is my expectation you complete classwork in class. Please let me know if you need more time to complete an assignment.

### Grading Scale:

A:	90-100	
B:	80-89	D: 60-69
C:	70-79	F: 59 and below