

Welcome to Skills for Independent Living

Ms. McFadden

Email: mcfaddenmmarsha@lisd.net

Please read with your student

Skills for Living is a project/lab based elective course that introduces the different aspects of Family and Consumer Sciences and prepares students to become independent adults. Students will learn and practice a variety of life skills including; goal setting, babysitting and child development, nutrition and cooking, sewing and clothing repair, and money management. I am passionate about this course because I enjoy instructing and providing opportunities for students to practice skills that will prepare them to be independent, responsible adults by attaining the knowledge that will allow them to meet the challenges of every-day living.

About Me:

- Bachelor of Science Home Economics (Major –Nutrition) –The University of Texas
- Certifications: FCS Composite 6-12, Generalist 4-8, SPED PK – 12

Materials required the 1st week of school for Skills for Independent Living

- Writing utensil – pens or pencils.
- Composition Notebook (this is not included in the Wrap Pack)
- Pocket Folder (this is not included in the Wrap Pack)

Wish List (optional but greatly appreciated!!)

- Note book paper
- Kleenax

Lab Fee:

There is a \$15 lab fee that helps offset the cost for cooking and sewing supplies. I will begin collecting on September 5. Please send by September 9, 2017 (cash or checks made out to Lamar Middle School.)

During the child development unit, I will send home information about supplies needed for the flour/sugar baby assignment.

Classroom Expectations:

- Be Respectful
- Be Responsible
- Be Ready
- Follow all directions
- Work cooperatively with group members and teacher

All classes will review and discuss these expectations. The class will also review specific expectations and procedures for labs and projects. Students who are not meeting expectations or who are distracting their peers will be given a verbal /and or visual warning. If the behavior continues, I will follow the Lamar behavior plan as follows:

- 1st Infraction – Warning
- 2nd Infraction– Contact Parent, 30 minute teacher detention before or after school
- 3rd Infraction– Office Referral

Students who break safety rules/ classroom rules before or during labs or are causing immediate danger to themselves or others will be immediately removed from the lab at my discretion.

Technology in Class

Ipads – We often use iPads in class. Students should arrive with iPads charged and ready to use. I have a few chrome books for students who do not have an iPad.

- To promote a productive learning environment, Skills for Living is a **NO CELL PHONE** classroom. Students must leave their cell phones in their backpacks or in the provided "Cell Phone Hotel" at the front of the classroom. There will be rare occasions when cell phones can be used for a project and I will let students know ahead of time.
- Students will be given one warning during the year before they receive an infraction for cell phone rule violations.
 - First Offence- Verbal Warning and surrendering cell phone until end of class
 - Second Offence- Infraction

Course Outline and Objectives

- Personal Development / Goal Setting
- Family
- Child Development
- Food and Nutrition
- Money Management
- Clothing Care/ Sewing
- Post- Secondary/ College Planning

Grading Policy:

There are 2 categories for grades:

- 60% Minor Grades – quizzes, daily work, and participation
- 40% Major Grades- labs, individual major projects

Since minor grades are heavily weighted, it is important that students make up their work in a timely fashion when they miss class. Students should check Canvas for access to missed assignments and talk with me before or after school the **first** day back to discuss missed assignments.

Late work:

Our campus grading guideline for late work is:

One day late = 70% is the highest that can be earned.

Two days late = 50% is the highest that can be earned.

More than two days late = zero

Retest Policy:

In the event a student fails a major grade, I will follow the Lamar re-testing policy. It is the students' responsibility to come before school or after school during tutorials to discuss re-testing, makeup work, or for extra help.

Homework:

Students are provided with the opportunity to learn through hands-on activities such as cooking labs, sewing projects, and various group activities. I generally provide students plenty of class time to finish their work, but on occasion there may be an out of class assignment or the need to finish an assignment at home. This usually occurs if a student does not complete an activity by the deadline and it will become homework that is due the next class period. Since most of the work is completed in the classroom, it is very important to be in class each day.

Contact Information:

The fastest way to reach me during the school day is via e-mail at mcfaddenmarsha@lisd.net. You can also call me at (972) 350--2050 and leave a message. I will check messages at the end of the day and respond within 24 hours

Thank you for taking the time to read through this syllabus with your student. I am looking forward to an exciting year and hope to see you at curriculum night!

Please sign the below and return to class by _____ . Students must have a signed syllabus in order to participate in labs.

I have read the Skills for Living syllabus with my student and understand the expectations and policies for this course.

Date: _____

Parent / Guardian Signature: _____

Student Signature: _____

Please let me know about any concerns/ allergies that you feel I should be aware of for this class.

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