



# Mock Trial - Course Syllabus

2016-17

Instructor: **John Beck**

**Room: 100**

E-mail: John.beck@district6.org

Phone: 541 494-6250 (CAHPS main phone line)

**Textbook:** None

## Parent/Student Resources:

Synergy web address for parents to login:  
www.vue.district6.org

To track grade & attendance (should be available by September 30<sup>th</sup>)

Teacher website: N/A

Monthly calendar of assignments & due dates: In Process

## **Mock Trial**

**c276001**

Trimester

Grades 9,10, 11, 12

Elective credit

Mock Trial teaches students to 'think like a lawyer' while also exposing them to the wide range of law-related careers. Students will read and analyze a specific court case, perform mock trials, take direction from actual attorneys from our community, and try a case before judges and attorneys. Students should be prepared to make regular speeches and oral arguments in front of classmates. Students will learn criminal law, legal process, rights and responsibilities and the justice process. This class has prerequisite of having a "B" or better in Intro to Law to be enrolled in the class. Students must also be available for evening practices after school during the school week, as well as the district and possibly the state competitions which are on weekends.

## **Content Covered/Course Learning Targets:**

### *Fundamentals of Law:*

- A. *Students will be able to define Law.*
- B. *Students will be able to differentiate between different types of law.*
- C. *Students will be able to explain why society has laws*
- D. *Students will be able to give general purpose for criminal and civil law*

### *Settling Disputes:*

- A. *Students will be able to give examples of conflict resolution techniques.*
- B. *Students will be able to explain examples for solving disputes between two or more parties.*

### *Court System*

- A. *Students will be able to understand the court proceedings and process in the following court systems:*
  1. *Trial Court*
  2. *Appeals Courts*
  3. *Federal and State Court Systems*
  4. *Supreme Court of the United States*
  5. *International Court*

## Lawyers

- A. Students will be able to identify all trial procedures.
- B. Students will be able to know objections – be able to verbalize these in a court setting at the appropriate moment.
- C. Students will be able to draw questions – conclusions – and use higher level thinking strategies in relevance to the assigned court case – and be able to verbalize them in a trial.
- D. Students must be able to do one or all of the following attorney tasks: Opening / Direct Examination / Cross Examination / Closing.

## Bailiff-Clerk

- A. Students will be able to verbalize and demonstrate the skills of each position relative to a trial.

## Witnesses:

- A. Students will be able to act “in-character” of the assigned role in the trial.
- B. Students will be able to memorize all pertinent information in their affidavit.
- C. Students will be able to have a good rapport with their attorneys.
- D. Students must know trial procedures.

## Criminal Justice Process

- A. Students will be able to explain the Miranda Rights process
- B. Students will be able to describe the criminal trial procedure in local and state courts.

## **Grading**

Activities: 15%

Mock Trial District Competition: 50%

Performance Tasks: 35%

---

100%

**Learning Behaviors:** In addition to academic grading, our student will be assessed on three behavior categories:

1. Team Work
2. Personal Management
3. Striving for Quality Precision and Accuracy

Students will be assessed on whether they “meet” or “do not meet” these criteria – no letter grade is associated with assessment of the learning behaviors.

## **STUDENT’S RESPONSIBILITIES**

Mastering the learning targets in Physical Education requires students to be able to actively participate and improve in areas of personal management. To be successful, students must:

1. Be **actively involved** in class, **ask questions, and contribute to the competitive atmosphere.**
2. **Complete or attempt all assigned warm-ups and bell ringer activities.**
3. **Ask for help and ask questions** of fellow students (when appropriate) and the teacher (when appropriate) when you are confused or don't understand.
4. **Come to class prepared – paper – notebook – textbook – pen/pencil.**
5. **Be a leader by demonstrating skills and techniques.**
6. **Do not distract** self and/or others students from the opportunity to learn.
7. **Follow the guidelines** set by the school and the district student behavior code, a cell phone referral will be issued as per CAHPS discipline policy.
8. Come to class **on time.**
9. **In group-work - work to your full potential.**
10. Remember that other electronic devices should not be in class. Students must ask permission to use rest-room facilities during class time. Students may not leave class without permission.
11. **Have fun** competing in Mock Trial Competitions!

**Attendance** (Follow school & District policies):

Attendance and participation are **vital to your success** in Mock Trial. We will be doing lots of activities which are hard to make up. Learning activities are most valuable when done in class with the teacher and other students to enhance learning. Without good attendance and active learning, acquiring the knowledge and skills of high school education is nearly impossible. Studies show that there is a direct correlation between consistent attendance and high achievement as shown through class grades and drop out rates.

**PARENTS**

**If you need to contact your student for an emergency** or other reason during the school day, outside of our lunch period. PLEASE call the school phone number (541) 494-5260 and your student will be contacted. Please do **not** call or text your student's cell number during class because it causes disruption to your and other students learning.

**The simplest way to reach me** is by *e-mail: John,beck@district6.org*; times that I am most available for parents are *7:00 a.m.* before school. *I should return your e-mail within 24 hours.*

---

..... ***Cut here!*** .....

**Mock Trial - SYLLABUS ACKNOWLEDGEMENT FORM**

**Note:** Please read this syllabus carefully and sign it, have your parents/guardians read it and sign it, and return this portion to me by

I have read and understand the course expectations and policies:

---

*Print Student Name (Please print neatly)*

---

*Student Signature*

You, your daughter/son, and I are partners in your students' education. You can help him/her succeed by checking with them as often as possible about their progress and looking with them at their assignment completion and/or needs. Please also plan on attending parent/student teacher conferences Nov. 25<sup>th</sup> & 26<sup>th</sup> & March 19<sup>th</sup> & 20<sup>th</sup> . Contact me any time with questions or concerns.

---

*Parent/Guardian Signature*

---

*Parent/Guardian Email – **please print neatly***

Best Phone Number(s) to reach you

First preference: \_\_\_\_\_

Second option (if available): \_\_\_\_\_

It is often easiest to call during the day, is it okay to call you at work if there is something I would like or need to talk to you about your student?

Yes

No

If yes, work number: \_\_\_\_\_