

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Welcome to the 2013-2014 school year. I am very excited for this school year and am looking forward to teaching your student. A little background information about me: I hold a Bachelor of Arts degree in History and a Bachelor of Science degree in Social Studies Education from Bob Jones University. I have earned a 30 hour Teaching Certificate in Elementary Education (English, Social Studies and Science) and a Master of Arts in Curriculum and Instruction - Middle Level Education from Eastern Michigan University. I began working in the Melvindale - Northern Allen Park Public Schools as a substitute teacher in 1996 and full time at J.O. Strong Middle School in 1999. At Melvindale High School I have taught Current Events, World History, U.S. History and Senior English. At Strong I have taught 6th through 8th Encore subjects (Video Productions, Careers, Writing, etc.) and 7th Grade Social Studies. I am also an Adjunct Professor in the Teacher Education program at the University of Detroit Mercy. Outside of my teaching practice, I also serve in a voluntary capacity as the President-Elect of the Michigan Association of Middle School Educators, the oldest organization in the United States advocating for middle school students and parents.

Each day we begin with a short agenda that students will copy in their planners. This agenda is also posted on a LCD screen at the front of the room and scrolls continually throughout the hour. Students are required to have their planners, IDs, books, homework and a writing utensil with them each class period. Michigan is transitioning from the Michigan Content Framework and Grade Level Content Expectations to the Common Core Standards. You will find those reflected in the posted lesson plans.

I'm looking forward to a wonderful year! If you have any questions, comments, or concerns, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

Mr. Shawn McGirr

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