

# **6<sup>th</sup> Grade**

## **Peer Counseling Course Syllabus**

**Instructor: Mrs. Geri Paxton**

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**Phone: (352) 259-0044**

**Room #235**

**COURSE DESCRIPTION** The purpose of this course is to enable students to further develop awareness of self and others. Emphasis will be on acquisition of intermediate level skills for thoughtful planning, peer facilitation, effective communication and making healthy choices.

The content during the semester may include:

- Peer Facilitating
- Behavioral Dynamics
- Human Needs
- Group Dynamics
- Leadership Skills
- Intra/Interpersonal Skills
- Peer and Family Relationships
- Conflict Resolution
- School/Community Resources
- Mediation
- Effective Communication
- Problem Solving

### **CURRICULUM**

#### **First 9 Weeks - Suite 360**

Mental Health (Lessons mandated by the State of Florida for all students to complete)

- **Stop the Stigma: The truth about Mental Health Conditions**
- **Awareness of Resources and the Process for Assessing Treatment**
- **Healthy Coping Tools for Teens**
- **Mental Health Awareness and Assistance**
- **Prevention of Self-Harming and Suicide**
- **You Can Help: Supporting Someone with a Mental Health Condition**
- **Child Trafficking Prevention**
- **Prevention of Substance misuse**

#### **Second 9 Weeks - Suite 360**

Resiliency Education (Additional lessons for Peer Counseling standards)

- **Be Bold, Be Kind**
- **Conflict Resolution and Compromise**
- **Empathy & Compassion**
- **School Pride: Contributing to the Common Good at School**
- **Short-Term & Long-Term Goals**
- **Organizational Skills**

- **Coping Skills**
- **Healthy Coping Tools for Teens**
- **Executive Functioning**
- **Use Your Wind SHIELD**
- **Do the Right Thing**
- **How Can You Show Honesty & Integrity?**
- **Perseverance in the Face of Consequences**
- **Positive Self-Talk in Challenging Situations**

Throughout the week students will have opportunities to visit the Media Center to return and check out books along with time to AR read and test. Students will engage in learning activities to strengthen their study skills and social/emotional skills. Students should use good time management to work on or complete assignments for other core subjects with any remaining time in Peer Counseling class. Students will be required to evaluate their current grades in Skyward gradebook in order to set goals and solve any academic issues.

### **APPLICATIONS**

Students will use the following online applications:

- Suite 360 - Mental Health mandate. A new lesson will begin each Monday and must be completed by Friday of the same week.

### **SUPPLIES**

- Wired earbuds or headsets - **a working pair must be kept in backpack everyday.**

### **ASSESSMENT**

Students' grades will be determined by using the following categories and percentages:

|                       |    |     |
|-----------------------|----|-----|
| Practice              | -- | 30% |
| Performance (Mastery) | -- | 70% |

**Grading Scale:** A (90-100) B (80-89) C (70-79) D (60-69) F (0-59)

### **CLASSROOM EXPECTATIONS/RULES**

1. Be on time and where you are supposed to be. (Prompt)
2. Be prepared and on task. (Prepared)
3. Ask for what you need. (Positive)
4. Strive for excellence and always do your best. (Productive)
5. Respect the rights, responsibility, and property of others. (Polite)

You are responsible for reading and following the student handbook as well as classroom procedures and classroom rules. When you make a choice that violates classroom and/or school rules, disciplinary consequences will be implemented. Please refer to the following documents found on the tvcs.org website under "Middle School," "Forms/Documents/Newsletters":

- VCMS Student Handbook
- 23 - 24 Classroom Behavior Management Plan

## **CELL PHONE AND SMARTWATCH POLICY**

Cell phones, smart watches and any other communication devices may not be used while on campus. If you feel your child must have one of these electronic devices, it must remain in their backpack, **TURNED OFF** while at school and during Extended Care. Texting and video recording are not permitted anytime during the school day.

Students are not to call, text, or message their family members during the school day. If students need to reach a member of their family, they can use one of the phones in the main office. You can help us enforce this policy by not texting your children and calling or answering their calls during the day.

Students with a device visible and/or using a device anywhere at school will have their device taken for the remainder of the school day. The teacher who takes the phone or smartwatch will turn it into the main office for the parent to pick up, and the student will receive a consequence for their choice.

## **CLASSROOM PROCEDURES:**

To complete your assignments by the due date, you need to **pay attention** to the instructions you are given and **use your time wisely**. This requires you to **respect** the classroom rules, classroom procedures, teacher and your classmates.

### **Beginning of class:**

1. Place your backpack on the floor next to your desk.
2. Look at the board for directions on how to begin class. This will tell you if you are working on your Chromebook or on paper to start.
3. Be in your assigned seat with your materials before you hear the tardy bell.

### **During class:**

1. Follow all the expectations, guidelines, procedures and policies set by the School Handbook.
2. Do not touch anyone else's computer, keyboard or mouse.
3. **Internet access** is only permitted by teacher approval. This includes games, music and downloading files.
4. **Work quietly and independently** unless you are working in a group or if the teacher has acknowledged you to speak. It is important to wait your turn to speak, respectfully listen to whoever is talking and speak when you are acknowledged by the teacher.
5. **Raise your hand if** you have a question or want to leave your seat. Only talk when the teacher has acknowledged you to speak.

### **Dismissal at the end of class:**

1. Leave your area clean. Put things back when you are finished including papers and your chair. **Leave your area better than how you found it.**
2. When the classroom is in order, **wait at your desk** for the teacher to dismiss you.

### **Communication:**

- Students, it is very important to **check your school email** multiple times a day.
- Parents, please check **daily** the email you provided VCMS for school messages.
- Please refer to my Teacher Connection page for course details and copies of important documents located on the school website [www.tvcs.org](http://www.tvcs.org).

**Make-up Work:** Absent students **must turn in missed work upon returning to school** the number of days missed plus one. To clarify what is an excused absense refer to the VCMS Student Handbook.

**Late Work:** Assignments turned in **1 day** late will be accepted for a **maximum of 60%** and those turned in **2 or more days late** will receive a **zero**. If assigned a week in advance there will be no exceptions.

**Homework Labs are available:**

- Morning Homework Lab is available Monday - Thursday 7:20 am - 7:50 am
  - (6th-8th Grade Morning homework lab with Mrs. Tripp)
- After School Homework Lab is available after school Monday - Friday 3:30 p.m. - 5:15 p.m as part of Buffalo Adventures. Students are encouraged to use this time to make up missing assignments.

**ADDITIONAL ASSISTANCE:**

I am always available to any student or parent requesting additional assistance. The best way to communicate with me is by email. In your email to school staff put “**Student**” in the subject line so your email will reach me through the VCS web filter.

If I need to contact you, I will first try to contact you through email unless you have indicated a preference for phone contact on the return form.

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**PARENT CONTACT INFORMATION: (Please print)**

Parent's name: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_

Best time of day to be contacted by phone:

\_\_\_\_\_

**Check the preferred method of communication:**

- ☐ Phone
- ☐ E-mail

Any other information that you would like the teacher to know.

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

I have read and understand the classroom rules, classroom procedures, and consequences for the 6th grade *Peer Counseling* course and I will do my best each day to abide by them.

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Student's Signature**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Student's Printed Name**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Parent's Signature**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Date**

**\*\*\* PLEASE SIGN AND RETURN THIS PAGE BY Friday, AUG. 18, 2023\*\*\***