**8th Grade FOCUS Syllabus**

Coopersville Middle School

Mr. Visser

[jvisser@capsk12.org](mailto:jvisser@capsk12.org)

997-3470

The goal of FOCUS class is to combine social-emotional skills with organizational tools and service opportunities to help students not only become better learners but more balanced and self-actualized young adults.

To help retain knowledge that is gained, students will create a portfolio that covers all of the topics that have been discussed throughout both quarters this class is taught. The final exam will be turning in the portfolio, presenting one of the topics to class, and explaining how the skill will help you succeed in the future.

FOCUS is designed to be a high school prep class and as such some policies may be in place that you or your student may not be familiar with. In an attempt to acclimate students to the atmosphere that is in place in high school and higher learning in general ***there will be no retakes for major assessments***. Some homework assignments and quizzes may be reattempted but tests and exam grades are final.

There will also be some activities that student may have never done before. One example would be calling businesses to get price quotes on items of the students choosing to practice real life communication skills. Another activity would be a service project where students go out into the community with their class and teachers to help improve the local community. (I am not sure what this will look like yet as we have a new format this year but I know they will be the second quarter that students are in my class.)

All other information about FOCUS like grading policy, classroom expectations, and daily schedule can be found on the 8th grade Weebly page at coop8th.weebly.com. Please feel free to contact me with questions or concerns at 997-3470 or at jvisser@capsk12.org.

**Parents**, please sign this sheet at the bottom so that I know that you are aware of the **off campus service project** (it will be within walking distance of school) and that **students may use a phone to contact businesses to get quotes on products or services**.

**Students,** please return the signed sheet by Thursday, January 24.

Student Name (print legibly please) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Parent Signature: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Part II

**Course description:**

Focus is designed to be a high school prep class that also focuses on citizenship, communication skills and a variety of other information that helps prepare students to be successful in life.

Some topics that will be covered will be: public speaking, stress / mental strain, relationships, addictions, personal finance, addictions, work / employment, citizenship and many more!

Grading scale:

Points are earned by students through test, quizzes, projects, homework. The percentages given are as follows.

Test / quizzes – 90%

Homework – 10%

Homework is worth: 4 points when complete & on time

3 points one day late

2 more than a day late

0 Missing

**No Retakes for Tests**

Your final semester grade is calculated

40% First quarter grade

40% Second quarter grade

20% Exam grade

A 93-100

A- 90-92

B+ 87-89

B 83-86

B- 80-82

C+ 77-79

C 73-76

C- 70-72

D+ 67-69

D 63-66

D- 60-62

F 59-below

**Classroom Expectations:**

Students are expected to be respectful, be responsible, and to be positive. If they have a challenge doing that, I will help them remember by using the middle school’s Positive Behavior Intervention System or PBIS. This involves three stages or levels of discipline. The first time a student causes a problem they are asked to work on a solution in the hallway. The second time they are sent to the responsibility room. The third time they are sent to the office. Students can also skip behavior stages depending on the severity of the offense. Lunch detentions are also always an option.

It is expected that all students will familiarize themselves with the middle school student handbook. To help clarify these expectations, students and their parent/s are asked to read and sign a behavior policy sheet at the beginning of each year.