Current Events

Name\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Period\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Ms. Harris**

**2020 Fall Semester**

**Welcome to Current Events!** During this elective course, you will learn about a variety of topics through the lens of local, national, and international news. In addition, you will learn how to determine whether or not a news outlet is reputable, how to identify bias in the media, and how to fact check sources for accuracy.

**Themes-** The course will be taught as a series of themes, with each theme consisting of about two to three weeks’ worth of curriculum. Themes may include:

* What is the media?
* Liberal vs. Conservative Principles
* Elections
* 1st Amendment
* Russia
* North Korea
* Climate Change
* Immigration

**Teacher Contact Information:**

* Ms. Kristen Harris
* Room 225
* [keharris@washoeschools.net](mailto:keharris@washoeschools.net)
  + please email Ms. Harris if you are absent to find out what you need to make up, if you have questions about an assignment and didn’t get a chance to ask during class, if you have concerns about the course, etc.
* respond to Ms. Harris’s post on Teams, if possible, on your at-home school day as a way to be counted as “present” for the day
* Ms. Harris’s website: [www.washoeschools.net/keharris](http://www.washoeschools.net/keharris)

**Class Policies:**

* **Beginning/End of Class-** Check the agenda board upon entering the classroom for the day’s assignments and objectives.You should be in your seat with all required materials BEFORE the bell rings. At the end of class, you should be in your seat until the bell rings.
* **Grading-** Assignments will be graded on a point system. No assignments will be weighted.
* **Homework-** Class will typically begin with a five minute “Breaking News” discussion about the news of the day/previous night. You should be aware of at least one news story to share during the discussion (you’ll record the who, what, when, where, and why of the story on the provided Breaking News packet). Occasionally you may need to finish an in-class assignment at home if you were absent or unable to finish it in class for some reason. Ample time will be provided in class for the majority of students to complete their work during the class period.
  + ***IMPORTANT-*** *Beginning the second week of school, students need to fill out their Breaking News sheet during their at-home school day, and show it to Ms. Harris upon their return to school. This will count as the student being “present” for their at-home school day. Example- Group A fills out the sheet at home on a Monday in which they are not physically at school, and shows it to Ms. Harris upon their return to school Tuesday. Students who show the completed sheet will be marked “present” for Monday.*
* **Late and Resubmitted Work-** Assignments turned in up to one day late will receive a maximum of 80%. Assignments turned in more than one day late (within the current quarter) will receive a maximum of 75%. Resubmitted assignments will receive a maximum of 75%. Please note that homework, projects, etc. are due at the beginning of class (unless otherwise noted) and will be considered late if not in the inbox at the beginning of the period.
* **Absences-** If possible, you are expected to email Ms. Harris when you are absent to find out what assignments were missed. Digital copies of the missing work may be emailed to you. Please note that an at-home school day, such as a day when A group works from home, is not considered an absence unless the student does not check in via Teams/bring their completed Breaking News sheet upon returning to school.
* **Behavior Grade-** Up to six points can be earned each week (two for each day in class) for exhibiting appropriate work ethic and behavior. Being on time, prepared for class, working productively, turning in all of your assignments on the due date, treating your classmates and teacher with respect, etc. will result in full points for the week.
* **Cell Phones and Other Electronic Devices-** The use of cell phones and other personal electronic devices for *educational purposes* is allowed in the classroom only with prior permission. You are to ask if you can use your phone/device before accessing it. Students found using their phones/devices for texting, playing games, listening to music, etc. will no longer be able to have devices in class until confidence in their ability to follow the policy is restored. *See the Pine cell phone policy for more details.*

**Class Requirements:**

* **Folder/Binder-** Please store all of the paper materials that you receive from this class in a folder or binder. DO NOT THROW ANY OF YOUR WORK AWAY. DO NOT DELETE ANY OF YOUR DIGITAL WORK. Keeping all work will ensure that you have everything that you will need to turn in assignments that are due, and to verify the correct grade if a wrong entry is made in Infinite Campus.
* **Writing Utensil-** It is essential that you bring a writing utensil (pencil preferred) to class every day. Using a marker, colored pencil, or crayon in place of a pencil/pen is unacceptable. Please come to class prepared with a writing utensil!

***KEEP THIS SYLLABUS IN YOUR FOLDER/BINDER THROUGHOUT THE SCHOOL YEAR***





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Name\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Period\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

2020 Fall Semester

I have read and understand the information provided in the Current Events course syllabus.

**Student Name:**

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

**Student Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Parent Name:**

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

**Parent Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Student Technology Survey

Please fill out the survey below to provide Ms. Harris with information regarding your access to technology outside of school.

1. I have access to the internet at my home. yes no
2. If yes, how are you able to access the internet? Check all that apply. (move to question #4 after answering)
   * laptop/netbook
   * desktop computer
   * tablet
   * cell phone
   * other (please specify \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_)
3. If no, are you able to access the internet outside of school somewhere other than your house? If so, where? On what type of device(s)?
4. Is there anything else you’d like Ms. Harris to know about your technology situation outside of school? If so, please explain.

Return this slip to Ms. Harris on Wednesday, 8/19 if you’re in Group A or Thursday, 8/20 if you’re in

Group B, which will count you as “present” for your at-home work day.

You will also earn 5 points in the gradebook for turning it in.