Educational Philosophy

I believe that all students can learn and be successful. My goal is to help each student believe in themselves and to reach their full potential. My job is to help facilitate learning and to guide students to reach academic success.

"It is our choices ~ not our abilities that show what we truly are"



About Your Teacher

I was born and raised in the Twin Falls area. I grew up in Buhl, Idaho where I enjoyed an active childhood. I enjoyed participating in sporting events all throughout my youth. I enjoy coaching and have coached summer softball in the past. I am a huge Boise State football fan and try to make as many games as possible. Participating, coaching, and watching athletic events are what I enjoy doing with my free time.

Education plays an important role in my life. I graduated from Buhl High School in 2005. After graduation, I received my Associates Degree in History Secondary Education from the College of Southern Idaho. I then attended Boise State University where I graduated with my Bachelor of Arts Degree in History/Social Studies Secondary Education in 2010. In 2014, I completed my first graduate degree at Northwest Nazarene University, where I obtained a Masters of Education Degree in Educational Leadership. In 2018, I completed my Educational Specialist Degree in Leadership and Organizational Development. I am currently working toward my Ph.D. in Educational Leadership at Northwest Nazarene University.

I currently teach AVID 12 and U.S. History 11 at Capital High School. I have a passion for teaching and believe ALL students can learn and be successful. I enjoy facilitating class discussion and engaging students in higher order thinking. I am excited about this upcoming year!





AVID 12

Capital High School 2019-2020



"Education is not preparation for life; education is life itself"

~John Dewey

Mr. Twiss RM 249

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Course Overview

The AVID Elective twelfth grade course focuses on writing and critical thinking expected of first- and second-year college students. Students will complete a final portfolio that will demonstrate their learning for the entire school year. In addition to the academic focus of the AVID senior seminar, there are college-bound activities, methodologies and tasks that should be achieved during the senior year that support students as they apply to four-year universities and confirm their postsecondary plans.

Course Units

First Semester

- Unit 1: Becoming a Life-Long Learner: Adapting to College
- Unit 2: Applications and Scholarships
- Unit 3: Introduction to College Research
- Unit 4: Making Connections
- Unit 5: Study and Scholarship

Second Semester

- Unit 6: Majors, Careers, and Lifestyle Exploration
- Unit 7: The College Catalog: Course Selection and Planning
- Unit 8: Financing College and Money Management
- Unit 9: College and Career Goals

Class Rules

- 1. Respect yourself
- 2. Respect others
- 3. Respect your school

Major Course Projects/Assignments

Students will assess after each unit. In addition, individual and group projects, essays, performance tasks, and daily work centered on the course categories will be assigned.

Assessment and Grading Plan

Below is the breakdown of how grades are calculated in this class:

Coursework=30% Planning/Organization=30% Tutorials=40%

Components of the Grade

Each assessment component will be assigned follow the 4 point grading scale and can be weighed more heavily depending on the complexity of the task.

Grading Scale

Letter Grade	4 Point Scale	Percent
A	4.0	100
A	3.5	90
В	3.0	85
В	2.5	80
С	2.0	75
С	1.5	70
D	1.0	65
D	0.5	60
F	0	50

Policy for Re-Doing Work

Students are encouraged to reassess assignments/exams. The goal of the course is mastery, so a second attempt is allowed. However, students are to schedule reassessments on their own time. In addition students will be given additional practice that must be completed before the reassessment is scheduled. The rescheduled reassessment must occur within 10 school days of the original assessment date. All course work will be accepted up to one week before the end of the semester.

Opportunities for Extra Help

Instructor is available for extra help before school, during most lunch periods and afterschool. Additional times are available upon request.