

Syllabus 2024-2025

Special Education

Brittany Stikeleather

Grades 6th - 8th

Room F108

Class Description

Welcome! Our class is part of Mauldin Middle's special education program and is designed for students with mild to moderate cognitive and/or intellectual disabilities. In this class we will focus on academics, communication, social skills, daily living skills, and participation in the larger community with an emphasis on functional skills. Instruction will take place both in the classroom and out; as we practice real-world skills such as grocery shopping, dining at restaurants, crossing the street safely, accessing community resources, and more. We also "work together" with general education courses depending on student interest and ability levels. Examples of courses we attend are related arts, science, social studies, and inclusion resource math and/or writing if that is appropriate.

Our curriculum is tailored to student needs and functional goals. Curriculum provided by the district includes Unique and LINKS. Other resources like Environmental Print and Goalbook are available as well. We will also have rotating units of instruction that teach functional academic applications such as: measurement, self-determination, plant growth, and more.

Students will receive letter grades for their core classes. Within my room, students' performance is completely based on their participation, performance on assignments, and progress toward IEP goal mastery. Each core class will have 3 major assignments and 8 minor assignments.

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Parent/Teacher Communication

Communication between school and home is so important! There will be several forms of communication such as monthly newsletters, email communication, daily notes sent home, quarterly progress reports, and student binder with work samples, and more.

You may also reach me by phone or e-mail:

(864) 355-**6893**

bstikeleather@greenville.k12.sc.us

Classroom Rules

1. I will use kind words
2. I will show kind actions
3. I will do my best
4. I will be safe
5. I will be a good listener

Chromebook Rules

1. Ask for help if needed
2. Only use your Chromebook when provided by the teacher(s)
3. Bring charger to school
4. Only use it when the teacher allows it or tells you to
5. Please close the Chromebook when teacher asks

Classroom Procedures

1. Walk into class quietly.
2. Place all items in your assigned place.
3. Raise your hand to ask a question.
4. Put finished work in your designated place.
5. Request to use the restroom.

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Classroom Schedule

The following is the schedule that will be followed while the students are in Mrs. Stikeleather's classroom. The activities during the scheduled time may change depending on class and student needs.

Class Period	Activities	
1st	8:33-8:55	Morning Meeting/FLEX
2nd	9:00-9:55	Academics
3rd	9:49-10:45	Academics
Lunch	10:55-11:30	Lunch
4th	11:40-12:25	Planning/Related Arts
5th	12:29-1:14	Planning/ Related Arts
6th	1:18-2:13	Academics/ADL
7th	2:17-3:15	Academics/ Dismissal

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Mustang Cafe

Mustang Cafe Coffee Club is a school-based enterprise operated by the students in our self-contained special education classes, taught by Mrs. Thompson, Ms. Robertson, and Mrs. Stikeleather. Each Thursday afternoon, the students begin preparing everything for our morning delivery. On Friday, Club Unify and students will run a small Coffee cart for faculty and staff during lunch periods.

With Mustang Cafe, our students are responsible for filling orders as requested, staying organized, and maintaining high quality sanitation. Through this enterprise, our students are given the opportunity to learn essential skills regarding workplace safety, following directions and most importantly, working independently.

Club Unify

Peer tutoring is an elective class for students in regular education to gain experience working with same-aged students with special needs in an educational setting. Peer tutoring allows for positive social interactions and social relationships to develop between students with and without disabilities. The major role of the peer tutor will be to be a friend to the students in the classroom and in environments outside of the classroom. Peer tutors are friends, role models, and above all, peers. These individuals are primarily 7th and 8th grade students who have been hand selected based on criteria established by the special education team and the peer tutor's guidance counselor. They create an opportunity to provide peer assistance not only within our classroom but also while your student attends general education courses, such as related arts.

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Behavior Management

Every student is different, and like every aspect of our classroom, our system for behavior management is designed with these differences in mind. We will begin each day by reviewing our class rules, which provide guidelines for how we will treat each other in our class. We will refer back to these guidelines when negative behaviors occur. We will also use a Positive Behavior Intervention System (PBIS) within our classroom in the form of a token economy. Students will earn small rewards or reinforcement based on complying to classroom rules, meeting behavior goals, choosing kindness, and making progress towards their IEP goals. Their reinforcement will be individualized based on each students' particular interest.

In the event of a classroom rule being broken, students will be disciplined accordingly. In most, minor cases, students will have a conversation Mrs. Stikeleather or a paraprofessional about which rule was broken, how a better choice could have been made, an apology to whomever was directly affected by the poor choice, and an apology note stating that said rule will not be broken again in the future. If administration is needed, then Mrs. Stikeleather will reach out to administration and communicate home.

Conclusion

My team of paraprofessionals and I are so looking forward to getting to know our student family this year. We are going to have a great time learning and growing together. I encourage you to review and discuss the information in the syllabus with your child often during the first weeks of school. Your support has a great impact on success in the classroom. Thank you for all you do as parents and guardians!