**PEER ASSISTANT PROGRAM SYLLABUS
Mr. Wood
2016-2017**

**I would like to welcome you to the Peer Assistant Program. Over the next year, you will be working with students with disabilities on a daily basis. Depending on what period you are assigned, you will be participating in a wide variety of activities. This includes (but is not limited to) teaching academics, helping teach life skills like cleaning, working with the students in agriculture, helping the students pick up recycling or shredding, and other assorted tasks around the school. We will have at least 2 field trips during the school year for the Special Olympics where you will be gone for the majority of the school day assisting students. We will have a 20-30 minute mandatory meeting twice a month after school in my classroom to debrief and discuss what has been happening as well as upcoming assignments.**

**Grading**

**Grading will be based on a total points system. Each quarter will have a possible 1,000 points that you can earn through attendance, participation, and assignments. The approximate breakdown (may vary slightly each quarter) is: 50% Attendance, 25% Working with the Students/Participation, and 25% Projects/Assignments.**

**Absences and Make-Up Work**

**Your presence each day is vital to this type of classroom running smoothly and efficiently. If you are absent, the entire period must be rearranged to cover your responsibilities. This is why half of your grade is attendance based. You will receive 5 points per day for showing up to class (and staying for the entire period) and an additional 5 points per day for participation. If you are absent, you will not earn the 5 points for that day’s attendance unless your absence is excused and verified by Ms. Everett. An unexcused absence will result in a loss of 5 points per day and those points may not be made up. To earn the 5 participation points back, you will completely one Current Event assignment per absence (if you miss 2 days, you must complete 2 Current Event assignments). Current Event assignments are due on the second day after you return to school.**

***Current Events Assignment*: Find a recent (within the last 6 months) article in a newspaper or magazine that deals with an issue or incident related to students with special needs. Print the article and write a 2 paragraph summary and 1 paragraph personal reflection on this article. Current Events Assignments are due on the 2nd day after you return to school after an absence. One article per day of absence is required to earn back participation points.**

**Cell Phone Policy**

**Due to the nature of the disabilities in my classroom, even the littlest things can cause a big distraction and result in my students becoming off task. I have a strict NO CELL PHONE policy in my classroom. If I see it or hear it, I will confiscate it. No warnings, no second chances. Under no circumstances will anything in my classroom be recorded or photos taken. The adults in the room may, from time to time, take photos or videos but these are for professional reasons. Any attempt to take photos or videos (without prior, explicit permission) will result in disciplinary action. If you are distracted by your phone, it means you are not giving your full and undivided attention to the student you’re working with, leaving them neglected and ignored.**

**Contact Information**

 **If you are out for any reason I expect you to email me at** **whwood@oneclay.net** ***as soon as you know you won’t be there* to let me know so that I can plan accordingly for the day. I will have a Remind account for the class, letting you know of any changes in the day or if you might need to bring something for the next day. I will give you that information in August.**

**I am looking forward to working with all of you next year! If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to stop by or send me an email.**

**Thank you,**

**Mr. Wood**