

GRADS I, II, III, IV: - SYLLABUS

2013-2014

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Course Description

There are 4 courses of GRADS. All courses are for teen parents which concentrate on the following specific stages of parenting.

GRADS 1 –Teen Pregnancy: This course is designed for all expectant teens. Topics include pregnancy, prenatal development, birth and delivery, healthy eating habits, substance and chemicals to avoid, & FAS, postpartum care.

GRADS 2- Newborn: This course is designed for teen parents with a newborn baby under 1 year of age. Topics include child development from birth to 1 year, newborn care, brain development, selecting child care, bonding, nutrition, medical attention, health & safe environments.

GRADS 3- Parenting: This course is designed for teen parents with a child 1-3 years old. Topics include child development for toddlers, potty training, discipline, brain development, second-hand smoke and health issues, childhood illnesses & nutrition.

GRADS 4- Independent Living: This course is designed for teen parents with pre-school children. Topics included parent/child interaction, child development of pre-school age children, discipline, child abuse/neglect.

In addition to the topics listed, all 4 levels of GRADS cover also cover the following: STD's, birth control, goal setting, decision making, staying in school, healthy relationships with partner and family, domestic violence & sexual abuse, economic independence, jobs/careers, budgeting, legal issues, reading and language development, continuing education, balancing work and family. All GRADS classes also receive special training in CPR & FAS presentations. Community agencies provide services from WIC, PAT, MECCA, TOTS & Apprendamos, just to name a few.

OBJECTIVE:

- Remain in school through graduation
- Have early prenatal care
- Deliver normal birth weight babies
- Develop positive parenting skills
- Set goals towards balancing work and families
- Improve school performance

Texts:

Each student will have access to a copy of each of the text(s) listed below.

Author: The Developing Child
Publishing Company: Mc Graw Hill
ISBN: 0-07-868968-6
Lost textbook fee: \$

Parenting Rewards and Responsibilities
Publishing Company: Mc Graw Hill
ISBN: 978-0-07-869-057-0
Lost textbook fee: \$

- Computer access is available in the school's Cybercafe before/after school and during lunch, with permission.

Classroom Rules

The Student Handbook is very clear about what is and is not allowed in school. In particular, please remember:

- **Safety** is VERY important in every classroom.
- **Cellular phones:** I have one, as do most of you. It is inappropriate for me to make or accept calls and/or text messages during instruction time. It is also inappropriate for students. I expect all cell phones to be silent or off. If seen, I will confiscate them. I will return your phone to you at the end of class on the first offense. You can obtain it from the office the end of the day on the second offense, and the third offense will require your

parent/guardian to pick it up from an administrator. This is not per class but a total accumulation of violations (this includes bathroom breaks and when using hall passes).

- **MP3 Players**, iPods and similar devices are distractions during instruction time. Turn them off and put them up during class. If I see them I will handle them the same way as cell phones.
- **Absences** will be handled according to school policy. Students with less than 90% attendance will need to appeal for course credit if a passing grade is earned. Students will be marked absent if they miss more than 30 minutes of class (this includes late arrivals and leaving early).

Honor Policy

You will not receive credit for thoughts or work that is not your own (plagiarism). You should strive to process information to the point that you understand it and can explain it yourself. DON'T just put someone else's answer into your own words.

Tardies

Class/instruction will start when the bell rings. Tardies will be handled according to school policy. Remember, being on time is not only an important habit to build, it is also crucial for your and others' learning. Students with three (3) or more tardies/semester will be required to make up missed instruction during their lunch.

Homework Expectations:

Assignments & Grades:

You are expected to build a portfolio by keeping folders of each unit covered throughout all the semesters you take GRADS. You will use the notes in your folders later as study notes for your final exam and for a final portfolio grade. Your portfolio will end up being your own personal resource guide to use for looking up information in the future. There will be several projects you will be required to do. They are as follows: CPR training, teen panel presentation, Fetal Alcohol Syndrome training, attend a parent involvement committee meeting, make various projects, participate community activity (Mesilla parade, tutoring at Mesilla Elem.)

Your grades will be based on student performance. You will be graded on the following:

- portfolio
- weekly quiz & final exam
- guest speaker participation
- Projects
- reflective journal
- class participation
- cardio walking
- healthy cooking labs

Everyone can succeed in this class, but it requires you putting in your best effort. Assignments in this course are designed to help you develop and improve content knowledge. If you need help or find yourself falling behind, please talk to me. I can give you additional advice, hints, and study tips. In general, the keys to success in this course are:

- committing to be in class every day,
- completing all assignments and turning them in on time,

Hall Passes

Classroom breaks are pre-scheduled. Therefore, it is very important you use the passing period to get to your next class on time. Individuals wishing to speak to the counselor or office staff must acquire permission from the instructor prior to leaving class. Students will be called to the front office over the intercom or by an office messenger before they can be released. Students are not permitted to leave school within the last 30 minutes of the day. Your parents must come into the office to sign you out.

Attendance and Make-up Work

Attending class is crucial. You will frequently do activities, group work and participate in class discussions. As a result, it is difficult to make up work, and your classmates will miss out too. All absences, whether school-related or for personal reasons, require an excuse to be turned into the front office within three (3) days of your return to school.

- If you are absent, it is your responsibility to find out what you missed and arrange to make it up. Assignments are posted on TeacherEase. All handouts given during class are stored Black Hanging Crate. Select the assignments you missed, look over the handouts and ask me to clarify anything you don't understand.
- Copy notes from a classmate as soon as you get back to class. Instructor notes are not available to students to copy.
- If you are absent, you have the same number of days out to make-up missed class work/assignments and/or projects (ex: you missed two (2) days, you have two days to turn in make-up work).
- If you miss a lab- you cannot make up the lab but can write a narrative page on any food or nutrition article to replace the lab. A handout on procedures on how to write the paper is in the make up crate titled " Missed Lab"
- Make-up work for unexcused absences will earn a maximum of 75% as per district policy.

Grading

I don't *give* grades -- I record your efforts. I will be using an internet-based grade book called "Synergy." After the grade book is set up, you will be able to access your up-to-date grade in Synergy. Grades will be posted within 72 hours of the due date. If you notice an error in your grade, please notify me as soon as possible. You are responsible for double checking everything I enter into the gradebook. NEVER throw anything away for this class. You don't have to bring it all with you every day, but make sure to hold onto it. Grades are changed by showing me the paper that I entered incorrectly.

The grading scale is as follows:

90-100% = A	80-89% = B	70-79% = C
60-69% = D	0-59% = F.	

Your final grade for this course is calculated based on the following formula:
25% = exams, 25% = homework, 25% = Participation, 25% class assignments

Each nine week period counts for 40% of the overall semester grade with the comprehensive final exam counting for the remaining 20%.

Late Work

It is important that you turn work in on time. Late work will be lowered 10 percentage points for every day past the due date. Work that is more than three (3) class periods late will not be graded. However, you are encouraged to turn in all missing work regardless of whether it is graded or not. This work is used to help you prepare for the end-of-course exam. In addition, it will influence final grades of students with border-line percentages (ex: 79.2% could be considered for a grade increase to 80% if all assignments were turned in).

Materials & Fees

Requirements:

- 3 prong notebook, notebook paper

Appreciated Donations:

Some students may have special access to the following items. Any donations are greatly appreciated, and receipts can be provided for tax purposes if desired.

- Portfolio 3 prong notebook
- Notebook paper
- Divider tabs