

Ms. Rodriguez  
Room 38  
[jrodriguez@ttsd.k12.or.us](mailto:jrodriguez@ttsd.k12.or.us)  
(503) 431-5231

## **INSPIRE**

Dear parents and students,

Over the course of this school year we will be learning about current social issues, both locally and on a global scale. Students will learn about how these social issues came to be, as well as what can be done to resolve these issues and bring justice and equality to every corner of the globe. Students will be presented with the facts as well as varying viewpoints to each issue to gain a well-rounded education on the topic. Students will also be able to do their own research on topics to help form their opinions. Students are advised to keep an open mind and are welcome to share their own opinions/views on the topics. This class is a safe environment for all students to freely express how they feel.

These four questions will guide the course:

- What is social justice?
- Why are there societal inequalities?
- What can be done to resolve the injustices/inequalities?
- What can I do to make a difference?

The focus of our studies will primarily be the following topics:

- Poverty
- Racial Discrimination
- Immigration (legal, undocumented & the refugee crisis)
- Gender Discrimination
- Workers Rights and Career Exploration
- Current Events

In addition to focusing on social issues, we will also devote some time each week to organizational and study skills, as well as college preparedness. This includes:

- Planner checks (every 2 weeks)
- Study hall/tutorial groups (every 2 weeks)
- Grade checks using StudentVue (once per week)

### **Class Rules**

- Be respectful of others' views and opinions.
- Student attendance is essential to classroom success
- Come prepared and on-time to class everyday.
- No cell phones and/or electronic devices unless they are being used for educational purposes (ipods, ipads, etc.)

### Grade Scale

100%-88% A  
87%-75% B  
74%-65% C  
64%-50% D  
49 %& Below F

### Grade Breakdown

Projects & Socratic Seminars: 50%  
Classwork: 50%

\*All classwork will be completed in Interactive Notebook (INB) to be graded. INBs should stay in class at all times\*

### Required Materials\*

2 Black or Blue pens  
1 Glue stick  
2 Pencils  
2 Highlighters

*\*Please see me/email me if you need assistance getting the required supplies.\**

### Community Outreach/Social Responsibility

Over the course of the year we will be teaming with national and local organizations to help those in need. Students will be encouraged to participate in and promote fundraising events and drives.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

Thank you,  
Julie Rodriguez

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Parent Signature

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Student Signature

\*PLEASE BE CHECKING MY WEBSITE WEEKLY FOR UPDATES\*

Msrodrigueztwality.weebly.com  
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