



**PARENT RESPONSIBILITY FORM**

**Driver Education Classroom Syllabus**

**Instructor: Mr. McNitt**

**Email: rcmcnitt@tyrone.k12.pa.us**

**Phone: 684-4240, ext. 3208**

*Parent signature & date is required before returning to teacher – this is a graded task!*

Dear Parent/Guardian:

Your student is about to take one of the most important classes of his/her high school experience and for this reason it is important that you understand my expectations of your student over the coming weeks. Please feel free to contact me should you have any further questions or concerns. The best way to reach me is by email, but phone will work too.

This is our “contract,” an agreement between you, your student and me; I will work in your student’s best interest, you will support your student’s learning, and your student will fulfill his/her responsibilities to the class, district, and community as a responsible soon-to-be-driver.

Would you please read this syllabus, complete this page and have your student return this front page this week? Please keep the other pages for your benefit.

Thank you,

*Cummins McNitt*

Teacher of Driver’s Education, U.S. Civics,  
Economics and World Geography

Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Alternative Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**“It is the policy of the Tyrone Area School District not to discriminate on the basis of sex, handicap, race and national origin in its educational and vocational programs, activities, or employment as required by Title IX, Section 504, and Title VI. Please direct questions about this policy to Dr. William Miller, Superintendent of Schools, at 814-684-0710 ext. 4123.”**



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**Academic Credit:** This class is worth ¼ credit toward graduation. If you choose to drop the class you must do so within 10 days of the start of the course. After that, it becomes a Withdrawal Failure and is recorded as a class failure in your transcripts.

**Classroom Instruction:** The classroom phase is taught to all students in grades 10 – 12 during after school hours. The state requires that classroom instruction must equal a minimum of 30 hours - meaning that a student may NOT miss more than 2 classes during the school year or 1 class during the summer. If a student misses more than this he/she will automatically fail the class regardless of his/her grade. Should this become an issue the student and parent/guardian MUST speak to Mr. McNitt immediately following the absence. *There is no charge for taking this after-school class.*

**Behind the Wheel (BTW) Component:** Students must be 16 years of age, have a valid permit or operator's license, and have completed classroom instruction in order to enroll in the BTW phase of the program. Students may pay the \$45 fee at the Main Office. Students must log six (6) hours in the driver education car with an instructor. It is recommended that a student have 45 + hours of BTW time with their parents **before** they request BTW instruction from the district. Parents, please remember that you must complete 65 hours of BTW time with your student before he/she gets a license (50 regular driving, 10 night time, 5 inclement weather). Our school driving hours count toward this total. Completion of both phases of the program will make the student eligible for most insurance reduction programs if an "80%" average is maintained in the classroom. *BTW is taught after school at a cost of \$45.*

### **Course Objectives:**

**Upon the completion of the course each student will be able to:**

1. Identify and explain Pennsylvania laws and regulations.
2. Identify, describe and assess vehicle operations.
3. Describe and identify perceptual skills development/strategies.
4. Identify and describe decision-making and risk reduction.
5. Identify and describe a multitude of driving conditions.
6. Define, evaluate and analyze influences upon driver performance.

### **Student Behavior: (Parent's please be sure to read this section)**

This class is the student's first step toward driving. In most instances he/she will be driving a car in less than a year following this class. This is the first step toward that goal. Driver's Education requires that the student be attentive at all times. Disruptive behavior will not be tolerated. If the student isn't able to remain focused and well behaved it isn't likely he/she will be a responsible and careful driver. Unlike a math or history class, there are no "do-overs" behind the wheel.

One bad decision is all it takes to alter a life forever. My job is to make sure that I put responsible drivers on our roads. In light of this, *any disruptive behavior will result in removal from the course.*

If parents wish to see their student's academic progress or if the student is having disciplinary issues in the class the parent only need to get online to view the class grades, in particular the participation grades. A participation grade consists of 15 points, given for each week (6 total). The student starts with the full points and keeps them as long as the student participates and is a contributing member of the class. This is intended to hold them accountable for their time in the class. They only lose these points if they come unprepared, are unwilling to participate or disrupt the class. If they have less than 15 points for that assignment you can be sure that there was an issue that week. *Because this is an after school class and is strictly voluntary, the teacher has the authority to remove a student from the course.*

### **Daily Required Materials**

#### **1. Textbook**

You will be provided two course textbooks: Responsible Driving and the PA Driver's Manual . You will be asked to sign-out Responsible Driving at the beginning of the course and you will be held responsible for its care. You will be charged for the replacement cost of the book (\$85) should it be lost or damaged. The PA Driver's Manual is free and yours to keep.

#### **2. Classroom Handouts**

The teacher will provide handouts – it is your job to keep track of them. If you lose your work you may copy it from the online site found at our district homepage. The address is: <http://www.tyrone.k12.pa.us/staffpages/rcmcnitt/DriversEducation.asp>

#### **3. Portfolio**

You are required to complete a portfolio for this course. It will be provided to you.

#### **4. Folder for class notes**

You will be provided with one folder that will be used to hold your class notes, etc. You will NOT use your textbook for the purpose of organizing/storing your course material. You will be expected to replace the folder at your cost should it be lost or damaged. You may use the folder for your portfolio when submitting at the end of the course.

#### **5. Pen or Pencil – come prepared by bringing one to class!!**

### **General Expectations**

- 1 Classroom rules:** Students and teacher will always be respectful, prepared, positive, responsible, and we will do our best!

This classroom is a “Safe Zone” area. This means that the teacher “respects all aspects of people including race, ethnicity, gender expression, sexual orientation, socio-economic background, age, religion, and ability” and expects his students to do the same.

- 2 Tardiness:** Be here by 3:15. Three tardies will result in a detention.

- 3 Absences:** It is the student's responsibility to make up all missed work. In most cases the student will know what is due and should bring it in the first day back to school. If need be the student may speak to me to make special arrangements, but it is the student's responsibility. If you do not complete the assignments by the due date and have not spoken with me concerning the reasons why you cannot complete the work, you will receive a "Zero" for the assignments.
- 4 Class Participation:** All students are expected to participate in class in a positive manner and positive class participation is included in your grade. Please respect the contributions of the teacher and your classmates, but do not be afraid to respectfully challenge other people's opinions – the ability to respectfully disagree is a vital part of good citizenship.
- 5 Hall passes:** You are required to complete the student sign out/in form when leaving the class for any reason. Failure to do so will result in loss of these privileges. Only one person will be allowed out of the class at a time. Please use this privilege sparingly and don't interrupt class unless it is absolutely necessary. When watching a film, be sure to use the restroom at the beginning or end of the class period only, but NEVER during the film. We will take a 5 minute break in the middle of each class. All students are expected to be back and in their seats when the teacher tells them to be so.
- 6 Cell phones/headphones/other electronic devices:** These items are a distraction and a threat to academic honesty – so please turn them off and do not get them out during class. Doing so will result in a reduction of your class participation/responsibility grade, and confiscation of the device and a disciplinary referral. There may be times when your teacher will allow the use of music devices but only during quiet work time. Students may use these devices ONLY when permitted by the teacher and at no other time.
- 7 Academic honesty:** Students are expected to abide by the ethical standards of honesty and integrity when preparing and presenting work. Cheating and plagiarizing (including copying other student's homework/portfolios) will not be tolerated. Zeros will be given for all students involved, as well as a disciplinary referral.
- 8 Computer Assignments:** Some assignments may be completed using computer/technology. It is the student's responsibility to save all work while using technology. Students should always communicate technical problems with me. Do NOT wait until the last minute to complete assignments – technology sometimes fails.

Please use my website for access to classroom worksheets, etc.:  
<http://www.tyrone.k12.pa.us/staffpages/rcmcnitt/DriversEducation.asp>

- 9 If you are struggling:** My door is open and I am here to help you, JUST ASK!

## Grading Policies

**Marking Period Grades** – Students are here for 17 classes, which isn't much. They are provided with many opportunities to be evaluated and to keep their grades up, receiving in excess of 1000 points during this class. This is done for the benefit of the student. If a student has a few poor performances he/she has ample opportunity to dig themselves out of the hole.

*Your grades will be based on the following criteria:*

### **1. Tests/ Projects/Writing Assignments**

- Most units will conclude with a traditional exam of 10 - 20 questions. Unit tests will typically consist of multiple-choice, matching, or fill in the blank.
- If you are absent on a test day or a due date for a project or other assignment, you must turn in assignments or take the test the day you return to school (of course, in the event of an extended excused absence, special arrangements can and will be made).

### **2. Homework/In-Class Assignments**

- Homework assignments are peer graded and entered weekly by your teacher.
- *If you are absent, it is your responsibility to make up missed work.* Please check the homework/assignments board for outstanding assignments that you may have missed. You are required to request any additional activity sheets, rubrics, etc. that you may have missed. Missed work is your responsibility.
- Any other make up work (homework, projects, and in-class assignments) must be personally given to your teacher, not placed on his desk, when you return to school unless other arrangements have been made with me. After that time your work will be counted as a zero.
- *Late assignments will not be accepted after a unit is completed.* Please pay attention to deadlines – I will not be able to help you if you come to me after the fact and ask to make up assignments from earlier units.

### **3. Participation**

- You will have the chance to earn 90 (5 ½ weeks) points through their participation in class. Participation will include:
  - Class tardiness
  - Participation & behavior in class
  - Prepared for class

### **4. Portfolio**

- Each student is required to complete a portfolio. The portfolio will account for 500 points, a significant portion of your entire grade. For this reason, it is imperative that you pay close attention to this project. The teacher will provide the rubric/guidelines.