**My Welcome:**  Welcome to PSI! It is my distinct pleasure to be your instructor this semester! This program will provide you with the tools needed to be successful in high school, college and after. Take this course seriously because it could be one of the most important courses you take throughout your academic career. One of my goals this semester is to help you feel confident as you embark upon the rest of your studies. I will guide you, cheer for you, coach you, and hold you accountable. This class as well as your other courses will require time management.

**Course Overview:** Preparing Students for Independence (PSI) services include campus and community-based instruction for students with severe and multiple disabilities. The program is comprehensive, efficient, and flexible enough to meet the needs of a wide range of students. IEP instruction is linked to grade level curriculum through pre-requisite skill development. ARD/IEP instructional accommodations and supports are provided to ensure active student participation in all learning activities. A team approach, involving instructional staff, related services providers and parents/guardians is utilized to assist students to reach their potential.

**Course Objective**: The PSI program teaches specific skills that are needed every day. Skills are taught individually, in groups, modeled by instructors, and practiced through class activities, role-play and field trips. Students are encouraged to practice these skills at home as reinforcement.

**Contact Information:**

Preferred Mode of Communication: TEAMS Chat or Email

Email: mpowell2@houstonisd.org

Web Address: houstonisd.org/mpowell2

Room: 141

Class Phone: 713.748.5400 Ext. 202

**Materials**:

* Diapers
* Diaper Wipes
* Extra change of clothing
* Storage Bags-Quart and Gallon sizes

**Grade Weight and Grading Scale:**

Formative- 60% (Daily Grades, Quizzes, Homework)

Summative- 40% (Projects, Tests, Essays)

(A=100-90) (B=89-80) (C=79-75) (D=74-70) (F=69-0)

**Honor Code:** Jack Yates High School embodies a spirit of mutual trust and intellectual honesty that is central to the very nature of learning and represents the highest possible expression of shared values among the members of the school community. The core values underlying and reflected in the Honor Code are:

* Academic honesty is demonstrated by students when the ideas and the writing of others are properly cited; students submit their own work for tests and assignments without unauthorized assistance; students do not provide unauthorized assistance to others; and students report their research or accomplishments accurately
* Respect for others and the learning process to demonstrate academic honesty
* Trust in others to act with academic honesty as a positive community-building force in the school
* Responsibility is recognized by all to demonstrate their best effort to prepare and complete academic tasks
* Fairness and equity are demonstrated so that every student can experience an academic environment that is free from the injustices caused by any form of intellectual dishonesty
* Integrity of all members of the school community as demonstrated by a commitment to academic honesty and support of our quest for authentic learning.

**Policy on Electronic Devices:** Once students enter classroom, all electronic devices should be silenced and put away such that they are not visible. These include cell phones, headphones, ear buds, etc. Students may only use electronic devices if authorized by teacher. Teachers may use electronic devices for instruction purposes at their discretion.

**Make Up and Late Work**: Homework and daily class work should be submitted in a timely manner as much as possible. Evaluation on late work will be done on a case-by-case basis at the discretion of the teacher. Make-up work will not be made-up during class time; this time will be reserved for planned instruction. It is the responsibility of the student to get make-up work and to return it to the instructor in a timely manner.

**Student Success:** Additional time will be required for written assignments. The assignments provided will help you use your study hours wisely. Successful completion of this course requires a combination of the following:

* Reading the textbook
* Attending class in person and/or online
* Completing assignments
* Participating in class activities

There is no short cut for success in this course; it requires reading (and probably re-reading) and studying the material using the course objectives as a guide.

**As your teacher, it is my responsibility to**:

* Provide the grading scale and detailed grading formula explaining how student grades are to be derived
* Facilitate an effective learning environment through learner-centered instructional techniques
* Provide a description of any special projects or assignments
* Inform students of policies such as attendance, withdrawal, tardiness, and making up assignments
* Provide the course outline and class calendar that will include a description of any special projects or assignments
* Arrange to meet with individual students before and after class as required

**As a student, it is your responsibility to:**

* Attend class on time
* Participate actively by reviewing course material, interacting with classmates, and responding promptly in your communication with me
* Read and comprehend the textbook
* Complete the required assignments and exams
* Ask for help when there is a question or problem
* Keep copies of all paperwork, including this syllabus, handouts, and all assignments
* Attain a raw score of at least 50% on the departmental final exam