



Expectations 2016-2017

Lake Travis High School Model United Nations

Course Syllabus and Club

Dear Parent/ Guardian:

Please read the attached course description, and behavioral expectations for Model United Nations students and club members. Please print, sign, and return the last page of this document as well as the last page of the [Extracurricular Code of Conduct](#).

If you have any questions, feel free to contact either of us directly.

Sincerely,

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Course Syllabus and Club Expectations

What is Model United Nations?

At Lake Travis High School, MUN1 and MUN2 are year long, credit bearing, elective courses. Both courses are highly interactive and involve simulation of the committees, debates, and activities of the United Nations.

What does a Model United Nations student do?

Model United Nations students actively research, debate, problem-solve, and write proposals on world issues while simulating the committees of the United Nations. They also attend conferences to compete against other students and schools from all over the country and world. At Lake Travis High School, our MUN students have traveled to UT, Baylor, Harvard, and New York and have even hosted a conference at LT.

How will Model United Nations benefit students?

Model United Nations students gain skills in public speaking, research, writing, critical thinking, problem solving, diplomacy, and leadership. They also gain knowledge world affairs which will have a positive impact on their readiness for college and careers. Additionally, MUN students stand out to colleges and scholarship committees. The Model United Nations experience also promotes cultural diversity and fosters a deeper understanding of the interconnected, global society we live in. MUN is a process. The goal for the year is for each student to grow in their awareness of real-world issues, their ability to synthesize these issues, improve their verbal processing skills, and gain confidence in and the ability to support their opinions and beliefs. Please visit [MUN FAQ](#) for more information.

When does Model United Nations meet?

Outside of class, MUN club meets on the first and third Thursday after school for about one hour; there may also be scheduled Saturday sessions. MUN students will have the opportunity to attend one or more conferences (usually involving travel) which last from one day to four days. All Model United Nations students are required to attend our LTMUN conference (date TBD). Students must communicate with Mr. Davis and the MUN president in advance about any meetings they will miss. Please schedule appointments around club meetings.

How do teachers/sponsors communicate with Model United Nations Students?

Enrolled students must use Schoology to keep up-to-date with the course. In addition, Model UN students may be asked to join groups online with email or text alerts programmed appropriately for announcements and other important information about the Model United Nations Program.

How are Model United Nations students graded?

Model United Nations is a demanding class with high academic standards. All work is expected to be of high quality and will require homework time to complete. Points may be deducted in the event of late work or less than exceptional performance on any given assignment or exam. Additionally, all MUN students are expected to travel to at least one Model United Nations conference per year.

Is late work allowed for Model United Nations students?

No. All work is due on the assigned due date to obtain full credit. Late work is unacceptable unless teacher grants special permission due to extenuating circumstances. Much of the work done in Model UN is collaborative in nature, and unprepared students can have a negative effect on the entire flow of the class. Students who encounter potential issues or time conflicts with posted due dates must communicate with their teacher in advance, so alternate arrangements can be made.

What about makeup Work?

After an excused absence, student should check Schoology for required assignments. For missed meetings or Saturday sessions, students may be required to complete a country position paper on the topic for the session they missed, and a draft resolution proposing solutions for the issue discussed. Conference participation is a crucial part of Model United Nations experience. In the event a student cannot meet the travel conference requirement for any reason, they must request alternative assignments from their teacher of record.

How are Model United Nations students selected?

Currently, MUN1 is open for enrollment from the general student population who have no previous experience in the Model United Nations process. These students may have limited opportunities to compete at conferences. Selections for the MUN2 class, as well as conference assignments are highly competitive and based on a variety of factors. Model UN sponsors make selections based on student academic transcripts and grades, challenging and rigorous course selections, teacher and administrator recommendations, proven public speaking and performance experience, strong research and writing capabilities, positive attendance and behavior records, and overall performance during practice sessions in the Model UN class and club.

Can a student exit or be removed from the Model United Nations class or club?

Model United Nations is a year-long course, and students enrolled in Model United Nations

should remain enrolled for the duration of the school year. As Model United Nations requires field trip eligibility, students must maintain passing grades in all academic courses and secure teacher signatures authorizing them to miss class to attend Model UN conferences. If students are unable to maintain eligibility due to grades or poor attendance, they may be exited from the Model United Nations club until they are able to consistently earn grades of C or better in all academic courses. Students who do not comply with school rules, the [Student Code of Conduct](#), the [Extracurricular Code of Conduct](#), and Lake Travis Model United Nations policies, as well as students who are suspended for disciplinary reasons may be removed from Model United Nations.

Are there costs involved?

Yes. Like any other program involving travel or field trips, there are costs associated with each Model UN conference. There are also club dues. Letters detailing the costs will be sent home to parents/guardians as soon as possible including detailed itineraries and monthly payment due dates. Fundraising activities will be organized throughout the year whenever possible to assist with needed funds to attend Model UN conferences. A limited number of scholarships may be available and will be awarded based on financial need, student essays, and overall academic achievement. Additionally, students will need to wear appropriate business attire while participating in Model United Nations conferences.

What are the expectations for classroom and club behavior and behavior on field trips and at Model United Nations conferences?

Model United Nations students represent Lake Travis High School and LTISD at school, conferences, and in the community; therefore, students will be held to the highest standards of behavior. Students must always exemplify positive, professional behaviors and refrain from negative ones. Negative behaviors include but are not limited to: posting unfavorable comments and pictures to social media; talking excessively or unnecessarily; working on other homework; using rude or disruptive language/actions; tardiness; cheating; misusing property belonging to other students, teachers, or the school; visiting inappropriate Internet sites; failure to be prepared for class, club or conferences; violating the school dress code or dressing inappropriately for conferences; texting and inappropriate cell phone use. All [Lake Travis High School Student Handbook](#) Policies and the [Extracurricular Code of Conduct](#) apply to this class and club and will be enforced. Attendance and tardy policies will be strictly enforced. Students with excessive absences and/or tardies will be subject to appropriate disciplinary action which may include warnings, parent contact, referrals, or other consequences.

If unacceptable behavior occurs, the following discipline procedures will be followed:

1. Student warning
2. Parental contact
3. Disciplinary referral

Teachers reserve the right to bypass the first two steps where serious discipline problems require immediate attention.



Student

First Name:	Last Name:	Cell #

Parent(s)/ Guardian(s)

First Name:	Last Name:	Cell #	Email Address
First Name:	Last Name:	Cell #	Email Address

Mailing Address

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Please sign below to indicate that you have received and read the course and club description for Model United Nations and agree to follow the policies and procedures contained in this document.

Student Signature

Date

Parent/Guardian Signature

Date