



7th Grade Social Studies and School Publications



Contact Information: Mrs. Heather Willis

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hi



On behalf of Sanford Middle School and myself, welcome to my classroom!

The information provided in this syllabus is what is expected and needed for your child's success in my class. Please take the time to read over this information with your child. The classroom rules and consequences are very important for the class to be productive. School supplies are needed by Monday, August 12th. If there is a problem getting supplies, please let me know as soon as possible. Any other school and cleaning supply donations will be greatly appreciated. Please detach the bottom of the back page, sign, and send back to me stating you have read and understand the information provided.

Again, I would like to welcome you and your child to my classroom. With your support, we will have a GREAT school year!

Sincerely,

Mrs. Heather Willis

Course Description: 7th grade Social Studies will implement teacher-directed instruction, individual work, group work, student-directed instruction, paired work, projects, on-demand writing, writing to learn, writing to demonstrate learning, writing for authentic audiences and purposes, and multiple intelligence-focused differentiation. Alabama students find themselves living and learning in a world that is experiencing rapid changes, including a seemingly limitless abundance of knowledge unlike any humankind has ever encountered. They are involved in and affected by local, national, and international events, including state constitutional and economic issues that directly affect both their education and their standard of living. In order to be successful citizens in today's world, students need to be knowledgeable about the economic, geographic, historical, and political perspectives of the world and its people. Since students are more directly involved in these issues and need information and strategies to make informed decisions, the theme of the Alabama Course of Study: Social Studies is responsible citizenship. Responsible citizens are informed and active citizens. They are aware of and participate in various levels of civic responsibility. Mastering standards included in this document provides all students in Grades K-12 with essential knowledge regarding economics, geography, history, and civics and government. With this mastery, students develop an international perspective necessary for living wisely in a world that possesses limited resources and that is characterized by cultural diversity. They learn to view the world and its people with understanding and concern and develop a sense of responsibility for the needs of all people, including a commitment to finding just and peaceful solutions to national as well as international issues.

Class Materials

Social Studies-

*School Chromebook - Charged every day

*Reading Binder 1 to 2 inch (any color)

--Must have by Monday, 8/12 to put together

* Pencils (with erasers) and pens (black/blue)

* Highlighters (any color)

* Loose Leaf paper (either wide-rule or college)

School Publications -

*School Chromebook - Charged every day

Daily Agenda

- I. Daily Current Events - Examine Local and National News outlets for evidence of responsible citizenship.
- II. Small Group - Vocabulary and Skill Building
- III. Whole Group - This could be a class lesson, class novel, writing assignment, project
- IV. Exit Slip - It is important for me to know what the students learn each day. I will gather this information by using a question or two to be completed at the end of class



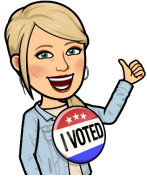
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Major Topics of Study:

★ Civics

- What is citizenship?
- Forms of Governments
- Enlightenment thinkers and their Early influence on American government
- Checks and Balances
- Branches of Government
- Judicial System
- State and Local Governments
- Voting Process
- Social and Economic Change
- Economic Systems
- Financial Responsibility



★ Geography

- The World
- North America
- Central America
- South America
- Europe
- Russia and Eurasia
- Sub-Saharan Africa
- Southwest Asia and North Africa
- Asia
- Australia, the Pacific Realm, & Antarctica



Absences

- I expect all students to be present and timely to class. Being tardy or absent will result in a loss of valuable learning experiences.
 - Preplanned Absence: Families should contact Daisy Benford (Assistant Principal), and the homeroom teacher via email regarding information on pre-planned absences. Students are responsible for connecting with their teachers in-person before the planned absence in order to receive any classwork/homework. Extensions may be granted.
 - Unplanned absence: Families should contact Daisy Benford (Assistant Principal), and the homeroom teacher via email the day of the unplanned absence. I strongly believe that family and health comes first. Families are welcome to pick up any missing work during the absence although are not expected to. Students should connect with their teachers regarding any missing work when they return from their absence. Extensions will be granted.

Late/Missing Work Policies: If you know you will be missing class time or you will be unable to complete work on its scheduled due date, discuss this with me in advance to request an extension. If there is a personal emergency that affects your work, communicate with me so I can be fair in assessing your work. Family and health should always come first.

- 10% reduction of grade if work is handed in late on the same day it is due
- 25% reduction of grade for late work handed in after due date
- Zero for missing work. No missing work will be accepted after the final unit assessment

Cheating and Plagiarism: Cheating and plagiarism will result in a zero on the assignment and will require further consequences. I value your own ideas and personal growth.

Extra Help: I am always available for extra help during class work time or before/after school by appointment. Please email or text me in order to schedule additional support.



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Grading: Overall grades are based on the quality of work. PowerSchool will be updated after work is graded, allowing extra time for late work and larger projects and essays. Students can check-in with me before or after school to discuss grades, progress, etc.

Classroom Rules

1. Follow Directions
2. Students will respect themselves, their classmates, and their teacher by keeping their comments, hands, feet, and objects to themselves.
3. Students will be in their seats by the tardy bell and stay in their seats unless otherwise requested by the teacher.
4. Students will come to class prepared and complete all assigned work in a timely fashion.
5. All student work will be the work of that student; no copying or plagiarism is acceptable.

Consequences for Violating Class/School Rules

Five-Step Discipline Plan. The plan's steps are as follows: ~**Students will be asked to stay briefly after class to sign their individual plan if their behavior has earned them a "step."**

1st Demerit: Warning - Student will be verbally corrected in the classroom.

2nd Demerit: Student Conference - I will speak to the student privately about the behavior.

3rd Demerit: Parent Communication - I will email, text, or call parent.

4th Demerit: Parent Conference - I will request a meeting in person or on the phone to discuss student behavior.

5th Demerit: Office referral to Admin

**** Any severe disruptions or fights will result in an immediate office referral**

Please sign, detach, and send back to me stating you have read and understand the information provided.

SIGN HERE

Student signature: _____ Date: _____

SIGN HERE

Parent signature: _____ Date: _____

Parent contact: Phone: _____ Email: _____

