



# Welcome Information

I would like to welcome all of you to 6<sup>th</sup> grade Social Studies!!! I have put together this informational packet to assist you throughout the year. In this packet I have included information about various policies. I hope you find it helpful. Please let me know if you have any questions.

## REACHING THE TEACHER

I am always available to help you. If at any time you have a question or concern, please contact me. If you are unable to reach me at school, you can always text or leave a voicemail using the number below. E-mail is another great way to communicate with me. I check my email often. If your parents need to contact me, the best time to reach me at school is a half hour before or after school or on my conference hour from 8:48 a.m. - 9:38 a.m. Please don't hesitate to reach out to me beyond the school day, I am here to help.

Student and Parent number for texts and voicemails: 989-249-3366

Classroom phone: 989-227-4360

E-mail: vannormant@sjredwings.org

Website: <http://rm603.weebly.com>

## CLASSROOM MATERIALS

For this class, you will need: a pen or pencil, a binder and spiral notebook (for Social Studies ONLY), preferably red if you are color coding, and an open, ready mind. You need to bring these materials + your planner +your homework folder + a book to read EVERY DAY. If this is a problem for you for any reason, please see me. There will be periodic materials checks.

Your binder will be your main tool in class. You will receive a course-pack for each unit that will go in your binder. We'll keep key concepts for each unit ("big ideas") and a glossary ("word cards") in our binders. Your binder and coursepack will be for activities that are in progress, homework, studying, etc. Many students struggle with organization, and this is one way to help you stay organized. It also helps you keep things together so that you can turn work in on time, as well as learn to study more effectively. \*Students will not be provided with extra course-packs, word cards, or big ideas if they lose them. They will be responsible for obtaining replacements on their own.\*

On Thursdays, we will read for the first 15 minutes. This will be sustained silent reading (SSR), and you may read your S.T.A.R.S. book, a magazine, newspaper, or a book of your own. I have lots of books in the classroom that you may borrow if you forget yours. You should make sure to have your reading book with you at all times, though, because we may read at other times during the week, as well.

## **STUDENT PLANNERS**

Student planners are used to keep students organized academically, but also as a key means of communication between school and home. I check your student's planner on a regular basis to ensure they have been filling out their planner properly and are sharing this information with you. **The use of student planners is mandatory for all students and one has been provided to you.**

## **HOMEWORK FOLDERS**

A homework folder will be provided to each student. This is a great way for students to stay organized. Their homework folder works best if it is always with their student planner and is carried to all classes. It should be brought home **EVERY NIGHT** with their student planner. **The use of a homework folder is mandatory for all students and one has been provided to you.**

## **HOMEWORK**

- o The majority of homework will come from class work that isn't completed during class. I allow ample time in class so if this becomes a chronic issue at home, we may need to look at what choices you are making during class time.
- o You will copy down your homework assignments in your student planner. Homework will typically be due the next day unless otherwise noted.
- o Setting up a homework schedule at home and a quiet place to work helps students to develop routines and complete assignments.

## **ABSENCES and LATE WORK**

Attendance in class is CRUCIAL! While certain assignments can be made up at home, some activities as well as the discussions had and comments made during class simply cannot. When you are absent, it is your responsibility to find out what you missed and complete the work in a timely manner. Please be aware I cannot take time away from the day's class to teach what the rest of the class learned yesterday. It is not fair to the rest of the class. **THAT SAID, please do not hesitate to ask me for help. I am happy to do what I can OUTSIDE of class to get kids back on track.** All I ask for is communication. I cannot stress that enough. Your assignments will also typically be available electronically on my website, and you can always send me an email to get class work as well. You will receive one additional day to complete assignments for each excused absence day.

You are expected to complete all assignments regardless of the due date. Work turned in after the assigned date may not be worth full credit. Indeed, there will be some assignments that may not be turned in late for any credit at all. We do certain activities or assignments at particular times to help you learn specific information or build specific skills necessary for that day's instruction. You must complete all assignments regardless of their point value to be eligible for extra credit points.

The Extended Day Learning before and after school is an excellent option for completing absent/late work. Before school extended day is Monday through Thursday from 7:15 to 7:40. After school is Tuesday and Thursday from 2:45 to 3:30. Math Lab is available Monday and Wednesday from 2:45 to 3:30. Extended day is a drop in program so you don't need to sign up, you can just show up whenever you need help.

## **GRADING POLICY**

<b>A</b>	<b>100 - 93</b>	<b>B-</b>	<b>82 - 80</b>	<b>D+</b>	<b>69 - 67</b>
<b>A-</b>	<b>92 - 90</b>	<b>C+</b>	<b>79 - 77</b>	<b>D</b>	<b>66 - 63</b>
<b>B+</b>	<b>89 - 87</b>	<b>C</b>	<b>76 - 73</b>	<b>D-</b>	<b>62 - 60</b>
<b>B</b>	<b>86 - 83</b>	<b>C-</b>	<b>72 - 70</b>	<b>E</b>	<b>59 - 0</b>

### Daily Classwork - 60%

This piece include warm ups, individual assignments, notebook work, and group work.

### Projects/Assessments - 40%

These may be in the form of quizzes, test, or projects. They may be written or verbal.

I will use Infinite Campus to manage your grades electronically. I suggest that you check your grades early and often. You must have a minimum of 60% to pass this class.

## **EXTRA CREDIT**

The only opportunity in 6<sup>th</sup> grade for extra credit is Social Studies Bingo. If you choose to take advantage of this opportunity you will need to complete a variety of social studies tasks over the 12-week trimester. You will need to get a BINGO: vertically, horizontally or diagonally on the sheet. Every BINGO earns two points of extra credit with a maximum of 4 points or a one grade bump. You can only move up one letter grade using extra credit. (Ex: A- to A, C+ to B-, etc). Each completed task should be in PUBLISHED final copy format and stapled to the bingo sheet for review by the teacher. Your parents should initial each completed box on the Bingo sheet. You will get a new one at start of each trimester. **In order to be eligible for extra credit ALL work must be turned in.**

## **CLASSROOM RESPONSIBILITY and DISCIPLINE**

You are expected to know and uphold all school policies and rules as laid out in the student handbook. In addition, I hold high standards when it comes to behavior in the classroom. I expect you to uphold the classroom norms that we created together. We spend a great deal of time at the beginning of the year learning and practicing the types of behaviors expected during the day. If you fail to meet these expectations, the following steps will be used:

- **Official Warning** – I will just simply tell you that's your official warning.
- **Signing the Responsibility Book** – If you continue, you will be asked to sign the responsibility book.
- **Phone Call Home** - If your behavior continues to be an issue, it will be a phone call home to your parent or guardian.
- **Behavior Referral to Mr. Kemsley** – if we still can not get things under control you will be asked to leave the classroom and will be asked to discuss your behavior with Mr. Kemsley.

**\* For extreme behaviors or handbook violations, students may be sent directly to Dr. Kemsley.**