Lusher Social Studies 6 2019-2020

Welcome to Sixth Grade Social Studies! This is the class in which we study and analyze the world’s many cultures and societies, including our own. My goal as a teacher is to challenge students to think deeply about these subjects. You may be thinking, “I hate Social Studies- all you do is memorize names and dates and read boring stuff.” This is not the case!

This year will be a little bit different. Students will be challenged to think creatively, make connections to everyday life, and come up with predictions about the way human societies work. We will be keeping up with current issues in our world, and learning from the past. It sounds difficult, and it can be, but I encourage you to come to this class with an open mind.

**Our topics this year include:**

* Ancient Humans
* Mesopotamia
* Ancient Egypt
* Indus River Valley
* Ancient China
* Ancient Greece
* Ancient Rome
* World Religions
* Government
* Social Structure
* The Middle Ages
* Renaissance
* Reformation
* Mesoamerica
* Age of Exploration
* Contemporary Topics

The Louisiana Department of Education creates Grade Level Expectations (GLEs) which can be found here: <https://www.louisianabelieves.com> .

**Textbooks, Class Materials, Planners**

Every student will be issued a textbook titled *HMH Social Studies: World Civilizations.* If the student does not return the textbook at the end of the year, the cost is $90.00 (the publisher’s price). This book stays home until the end of the year. Do not bring it to school every day. Each student will also have access to the EBook version of the book and assignments.

Every student will also be issued a Student Agenda on the first day of school. I expect each student to write down his or her homework in this agenda every day. Get organized – it will make life a lot easier! Always come to class with your SS notebook, pencils, and tape.

**Office Hours**

Every Tuesday, during lunch, and Thursday after school from 3:45-4:45, I will have Office Hours to work with students. Office Hours begin at 3:45 and last until 4:45. If something isn’t clicking in class, you need to retake or make up missing work, or want to work on homework, it is the student’s responsibility to come to office hours to get assistance.

**Grading**

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| **Overall Grade Category Weights** | **Grade Cut Offs** |
| **Unit Tests (25%)**  **Projects/Quizzes (30%)**  **Quarter Exam (25%)**  **Study Island and Graded Homework (15%)**  **Notebook Check and Graded Class Work (5%)** | **A = 93 – 100%**  **B = 85 – 92 %**  **C = 75 – 84 %**  **D = 67 – 74%**  **F = 66 % or below** |
| **Individual Skill Mastery on Unit Tests** | |
| 80% - 100% = Yes, you mastered this skill.  65% - 79% = You were close to mastering this skill.  0% - 64% = You have not yet mastered this skill. Come to office hours to retake! | |

**Homework**

Homework will be assigned as needed, and students will occasionally have projects which require work over the weekend. These projects will be assigned at least two weeks from the due date. Your homework is not an option. Any work turned in after the due date will lose ten points daily. Late assignments will not be accepted more than one week after their initial due date.

**Study Island Grading**

The bulk of Study Island assignments will be graded homework assignments and recorded in PowerSchool. **You must complete at least 10 questions with a score of at least 70%**.

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| Score on Study Island Homework Assignment | Score in Power School |
| 80% or greater | 100% |
| 70-79% | 85% |
| 69% or less | 0% |

**Test/Quiz Re-Take and Absence Policy:**

Students will be able to re-take quizzes and tests that they receive a D or F on during office hours within ONE WEEK of receiving the grade. Even if you get a D or F on a quiz, there will be individual conversations to determine if a retake will be granted. I will make decisions about retakes on a case-by-case basis. For all other assignments, students must see me about retakes or make-up work within two weeks after the grade posting. This includes assignments missed due to an absence. It is important to attend office hours to review skills before a retake.

***Info for Families:***

*While your child’s learning is ultimately their responsibility, I hope you will be an active participant in the process, too. Please be aware of what your child is learning, and see that they are keeping up with their homework and organization. If they say they don’t have any, they may not be telling the complete truth. Middle school is a huge transition for a child, and it is important that they get off to a good start right away.*

*I would like our lines of communication to be open. You know your child much better than I ever will, and I would love to hear any input you have****. Please don’t hesitate to email me or come by to speak with me. I really believe that we are all on the same team and that by having consistent high expectations, your child with thrive.***

*And one more thing: not only are you experts on your children, but you probably know a lot more than I ever will about many topics. Interested in traditional African dancing? Come teach us! Make an awesome Greek salad? We’d love to try it out. Almost any interest/hobby/activity can be tied into Social Studies in some way, and it makes everyone’s lives more interesting. Think about it, and please let me know.*

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