

August 10, 2017

Dear Parent/Guardian:

Welcome to North Middle! I am looking forward to a productive and successful year working with you and your child. The following information will give you an overview of 6th grade social studies, tips to help your child find success in class, as well as how we can effectively work together to help your child achieve success in social studies.

What Will We Be Learning This Year?

The 6th grade social studies curriculum will focus on ancient world civilizations. Within each unit, students will examine how where people lived affected the way that they lived, how cultures formed, impacted, and affected people's lives, and the impacts these ancient civilizations had on economic activity, government, and advances in technology.

Units Studied in Sixth Grade Social Studies

Mesopotamia

The unit will cover the history of Ancient Mesopotamia. Several factors led to this specific geographic area becoming the "cradle of civilizations." These civilizations became the model for the first system of writing, advances in technology and government. These models are still used today.

Ancient Egypt

This unit will cover the history of Ancient Egypt with an emphasis on the cultural contributions. The history and cultural contributions of the ancient Egyptians that played an important role in development of other ancient civilizations will be covered.

Ancient India

This unit will cover the history of Ancient India with an emphasis on religion and the caste system, because these still influence the culture of India today.

Ancient China

This unit will cover the history of China from the Shang to Han Dynasties, focusing on the technological and scientific advancements that affected its people.

Early Latin Americans

This unit will cover the history of the Aztec, Mayan, and Inca civilizations from their beginnings to their demise. The impact of these societies can still be seen in the geographic locations and cultural aspects of today.

Materials Used in Class

Students will need a one inch binder that they will use to keep notes, class work, and handouts received in class. Students will need to be sure that it is well stocked with loose-leaf paper and come with writing utensils daily. We have textbooks that will be kept in the classroom to be used as reference.

Homework, Tests, and Projects

Always be sure to check your child's planner to see daily assignments. Students will have something to complete or study each time we meet for class. Students will always test upon the completion of a unit. Preparing for tests is a very important skill for 6th graders to possess. In order to be prepared for an assessment, students **MUST** participate in class and complete ALL assignments. If a student fails to follow these expectations, they will **NOT** be eligible to retake an assessment. Please consistently check Parent Portal online to keep current on your child's progress. They will be given advance notice of when these tests will take place. Student's notes, study guides, and all assignments that help your child prepare for tests are kept in their binders. All of this information will not be collected at any point. We will also complete projects during the course of the school year. Students will always receive guidelines and scoring guides when the project is assigned.

What Can Parents Do To Help?

- Be sure to check your child's planner each day to keep up with homework information. Every student will receive a planner that should be brought home each night. Ask your child about their work and what they are learning.
- Students will be introduced to new vocabulary and places that may be unfamiliar to them; help them study often!
- Be sure that you have signed up for Parent Portal. This is a valuable online tool that helps you view your child's progress. I will also use it to send emails out regularly to update parents on upcoming social studies information. **If you have already registered, please be sure that your email address and contact information is current.**
- We will be creating projects throughout the school year. If you could donate any of the following items it will be greatly appreciated.
Small rocks, String, Straws, Popsicle sticks, Toothpicks, aluminum foil

Please feel free to contact me throughout the year. Email is usually the best way to contact me, because I am able to check it throughout the day. I am looking forward to a great year working with you and your child!

Sincerely,

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