

Social Studies Newsletter

Mrs. Brooks, Mrs. Clark, and Mrs. Haines

6th Grade / Social Studies

Welcome to 6th Grade Social Studies. In Social Studies this year, students will be examining ancient civilizations. We will organize each civilization by using **GRAPE**S- **G**eography, **R**eligion, **A**chievements, **P**olitical System, **E**conomic System and **S**ocial Structure. The following will be our focus each quarter:

1st Quarter

- Geographic Tools
- Five Themes of Geography
- Mesopotamia and Ancient Egypt

2nd Quarter

- Ancient Greece
- Ancient Rome
- The Byzantine Empire

3rd Quarter

- Arabian Peninsula- Religions of the World
- The European Middle Ages
- The Renaissance and Reformation
- Ancient Africa

4th Quarter

- Ancient India
- Ancient China
- Japan
- The Americas

We are looking forward to exploring these ancient civilizations with you. We know our experiences together will be exciting and filled with adventure.

Procedures:

1. Upon entry into the classroom, please take a seat and check for missed assignments.
2. Copy the agenda, update your Table of Contents and complete the Question of the Day (Warm-up/opener)
3. Make sure you have a red checking pencil and your pencil sharpened at the beginning of class.
4. Raise your hand to be called upon before speaking. Do not talk when someone else is talking.
5. Obtain permission before leaving your seat. Sharpen your pencils and discard paper before or after class.
6. Listen carefully in class.
7. Be prompt, prepared, respectful and responsible. **Please do not bring gum, candy, or food to class.**



Grading Scale

100-90	A
89-80	B
79-70	C
69-60	D
Below 60	F



Major Assessments- 65%

**Major Assessments will address the 4 C's: Critical Thinking, Communication, Collaboration, and Creativity.*

Tests

A **test** will be given at the end of a unit of study. Students will be given at least one week's notice for **tests** with a detailed study guide to help the students prepare. Tests will involve critical thinking skills using primary and secondary sources. Students will also be asked to write answers to critical response questions.

Projects

Students will be assigned projects through the year that correlate with a unit of study. Objective and Guidelines for the project will be given at the start of the project. Students will also be give a rubric to show how the project will be graded.

Benchmark Assessments

Throughout the course of the year students will be given benchmark assessments. These are required Wake County formative assessments of previous units of study. These assessments **will not** count as a grade toward the final average for the nine weeks.

Minor Assessments— 35%

A **quiz** will be given throughout a unit of study. Quizzes are used to test the knowledge of vocabulary terms. Quizzes may be fill in the blank, true/false, multiple choice or short answer. For quizzes, students will be given at least one day's notice.

Class work will be given to practice skills that have been taught in class. Class work may be individually or as a group assignment. If a group assignment is given, then each student will be asked to complete a task to complete the group activity.

Homework is to enrich and extend the school experience through related home experiences. Homework will **NOT** count as a grade. Students will have weekly assignments such as: reading lessons, study flashcards, and answering questions.



Test Corrections , Late Assignments and Emailed Projects:

On a Major Assessment, students will have the opportunity to improve their score through test-corrections.

We will accept late assignments (up to two weeks late). For each project and writing assignment, the students will be given a rubric. This rubric should also be used as a "final check" that all assignment requirements have been met. Students who experience printer problems at home need to print out typed assignments in homeroom or before school and assemble them before Social Studies class.



Website:

From the main Durant Road Middle School website you can readily access our team's website by selecting *Team Websites, Sixth Grade-Track 4*. From the team's webpage, select *Social Studies* website.

The Flipped Classroom:

Throughout the year, we will require students to watch a recorded lesson or view a PowerPoint presentation on our Social Studies webpage prior to coming to class. This practice of "flipping" the lecture portion of the class affords students the opportunity to watch the lesson or PowerPoint several times and practice the skills with the teacher the following day in class. Students will be required to produce "evidence", often in the form of notes or guided notes, or completed questions to demonstrate they have, in fact, met the requirements of the assignments. **Notes from parents stating that the student completed the assignment will not be accepted as alternative evidence.** Students who do not have access to the Social Studies website from home may request to return to team at lunch or during Smart Block to view the on-line materials or access the materials on school computers. In addition, when students are absent, viewing lessons on-line is an excellent way to catch up on materials covered in classes missed.

When you are absent:

When you are absent, it is your responsibility to get your missed assignments. Two valuable sources for work you have missed are the team newsletter and my webpage.

If you know in advance that you will be absent (e.g. pre-approved educational leave), you are required to request your assignments prior to your absence and submit them upon your return to school.

Smart Block

Students are invited to receive assistance with material they do not understand Monday through Thursday during Smart Block.

