

# 6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> GRADE SOCIAL STUDIES

Dear Parents/Guardians,

My name is Mr. Fitzsimmons and I will be your child's Social Studies teacher Grades 6-8. I look forward to working with your child and yourself in the upcoming school year. I am a highly qualified teacher and my educational background consists of a bachelor's degree from Cleveland State University. Also, I have successfully completed the Praxis II exams for Social Studies. Below are some of the topics and areas of the world by grade level we will explore in the upcoming year(s):

## GRADE 6 SOCIAL STUDIES

### **EARLY CIVILIZATIONS**(prior to 1000 b.c.)

Paleolithic Era ----Revolution in Agriculture

Tigris and Euphrates (Mesopotamia)

Nile (Egypt)

Huang He (China)

Indus Valley

### **FIRST GLOBAL AGE**

Mayan, Inca, Aztec, Mississippian Civilizations

### **COMPARING WORLD RELIGIONS**

Buddism, Christianity, Judaism, Hinduism, Islam

### **GEOGRAPHY**

Locations, Latitude and Longitude, Map Analysis, Charts, Graphs

### **ECONOMICS**

Supply and Demand

### **GOVERNMENT**

Treaties, Diplomacy, Sovereignty

Also, here is some general information on how the class is run:

### **Homework:**

Assignments are generally given 2-3 times a week. I usually allow some time in class in order for students to get a start on the assignment and also to answer any questions that may arise. Assignments are worth different point values depending on the difficulty of the assignment. Any student who fails to do the required homework will lose 10% of their grade for each day that the assignment is not turned in. After 5 days of missing work the student will only receive a maximum of 50% regardless of whether or not all answers are correct.

### **TESTS:**

Tests are given at the end of a unit which generally takes 2-3 weeks. Tests usually include multiple choice, matching, and short answer questions. Depending on the unit, there may be some map identification or other additional skills to be tested. Students are

always given ample notification when a test is upcoming and a great deal of review takes place before the test.

**VOCABULARY:**

Around the mid part of each unit a vocabulary quiz will take place. Students will be quizzed on important vocabulary from each unit.

**PROJECTS:**

Every grading period there will be at least one project that will be assigned. The assignment will be given usually 1/3 of the way through the grading period. These are not extensive projects but do take more time than a regular homework assignment.

**CURRENT EVENTS:**

From time to time I will assign a current event assignment where the students are required to bring in a current event article from either the newspaper, a magazine, or the internet to discuss in class. These articles should deal with current topics that effect our world or us today. They may deal with political, economic, or social issues. Examples and further explanation will be given when the assignment is announced.

**NEEDED SUPPLIES:**

- 1 large 2 pocket folder
- 1 spiral notebook
- 1 package of loose leaf wide ruled notebook paper
- Pencil/Pen

## **7TH GRADE SOCIAL STUDIES**

Dear Parents/Guardians,

My name is Mr. Fitzsimmons and I will be your child's 7th grade Social Studies teacher. I look forward to working with your child and yourself in the upcoming school year. I am a highly qualified teacher and my educational background consists of a bachelor's degree from Cleveland State University. Also, I have successfully completed the Praxis II exams for Social Studies. In the 7<sup>th</sup> grade year we begin to look more closely at early civilizations of the world after 1000 b.c. and also focus on improving general geography skills. The 7<sup>th</sup> grade year is a continuation of knowledge acquired during the the 6<sup>th</sup> grade year and also starts the process of preparing your child for the upcoming 8<sup>th</sup> grade achievement test. The subjects and materials we touch on this year will be tested on the 8<sup>th</sup> grade achievement test. The class structure is set up to help the students become prepared for this test and get a better understanding of Social Studies in general. Below are some of the topics and areas of the world we will explore in the upcoming year:

**EARLY CIVILIZATIONS** (after 1000 b.c.)

Egypt, China, India, Greece, Rome

**FEUDALISM**

Middle Ages

**WEST AFRICAN TRADE****EUROPEAN EXPLORATION****GEOGRAPHY**

Country locations/Impact of physical features on culture, war, and trade

**ECONOMICS**

Scarcity and resource allocation/markets

**GOVERNMENT**

Direct and Representative Democracy comparisons

Also, here is some general information on how the class is run:

**Homework:**

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**TESTS:**

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1 package of loose leaf wide ruled notebook paper  
Pencil/Pen

## **8<sup>TH</sup> GRADE SOCIAL STUDIES**

**GLOBAL AGE REVIEW** (6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> grade concepts)

**AMERICA'S BEGINNINGS**

New Empires in America  
English Colonies

**AMERICAN REVOLUTION**

**BUILDING A NEW NATION**

Forming Government  
War of 1812  
Constitution  
Nationalism

**CIVIL WAR AND RECONSTRUCTION**

Also, here is some general information on how the class is run:

**Homework:**

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Pencil/Pen

I want to thank you for taking the time to look this over. Please review this with your child and if you have any questions please let me know. I can be reached by phone at 216-271-6055 ex18 or by email at [todd\\_fitzsimmons@hotmail.com](mailto:todd_fitzsimmons@hotmail.com). Also, if I need to contact you for any reason please give your phone number and/or email address indicating in which way you would prefer to be contacted. Please sign and return the bottom portion of this form to me no later than Friday Sept. 7<sup>th</sup>. I appreciate your cooperation and am excited to work with your child in the upcoming year.