

## Mr. Biever's Social Studies Syllabus

A guide to help students and parents understand requirements and procedures for the classroom

### Being prepared for class

#### ✓ Bring to every class

- ✓ Spiral notebook or clean paper
- ✓ Black or blue pen only, or pencil
- ✓ Chromebook
- ✓ Proper school uniform of the day

### Expectations

#### ✓ Note taking

- ✓ I expect each student to take notes during class.
- ✓ At the beginning of the year I will go over 5 different methods on how to take notes for the 6<sup>th</sup> grade and review note taking methods for the 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade (who have already received that instruction the previous year, I will provide additional instruction for all new students).
- ✓ Student notes and only their own hand-written student notes are allowed for all quizzes and tests. This year I will allow only **ONE** sheet of notes (front and back) for use on all quizzes and

tests. It is my method for students to review their notes to prepare for all assessments.

## ✓ Grading

✓  $100-94 = A$

✓  $93-85 = B$

✓  $84-75 = C$

✓  $74-70 = D$

✓  $69-0 = F$

## ✓ Percentages

✓ Tests/projects/summative = 40%

✓ Quizzes/formative assessments = 35%

✓ Homework/classroom assignments = 25%

## ✓ Overall grading philosophy

✓ When I grade an assignment or assessment, all students will start with points (depending on the amount of questions or work), for every correct answer points are awarded. An example of this is if there is a 10-question quiz, each question is not worth 10 points, rather 5 points so each student starts with 40 points. I do so because it is statistically impossible to be a "B" student if you get one wrong. There are no absolutes and students should not have to worry to be perfect.

## ✓ Spelling and Grammar

- ✓ Leniency is given during the first quarter of the school year on spelling and grammar (no point deduction).
- ✓ From the start of the second quarter forward a  $\frac{1}{2}$  point is deducted for each such error.

## ✓ Homework/Classroom Assignments

- ✓ Homework is to reinforce lessons from class and are due the following day at the beginning of class.
- ✓ Incomplete or late homework will receive -10 points immediately and an additional -10 for everyday past the due date. If the assignment is not received by the 5<sup>th</sup> day then the student will receive a zero.
- ✓ Additionally, homework (or any assignment/evaluation) without a name is -2 points.
- ✓ Classroom work is an assignment given at the beginning of class and is due by the end of class (unless otherwise noted). It is my intent that no classroom assignment will be given that cannot be completed by the end of class.
- ✓ The same rules will apply for incomplete or late classroom assignments as the homework assignments.
- ✓ If the student is absent for any reason (sick, appointment, sports, etc.) it is the student's

responsibility to ask and/or check google classroom for the assignment.

## ✓ Extra credit or additional work

- ✓ I do not give extra credit nor additional work for students. It is my belief that if the student is struggling then additional work will not assist but rather burden the student.
- ✓ I do provide bonus questions on all quizzes and tests. These questions are meant to assist, thus if answered incorrectly will not go against the student, rather provide extra points for each correct answer.

## ✓ Quizzes and Tests

- ✓ All quizzes and tests are announced prior to being administered.
- ✓ Pop quizzes are announced the day prior (don't believe in unannounced assessments)
- ✓ Regular quizzes are preceded with a review period the day prior.
- ✓ This holds true with tests, they too will be preceded with a review the day prior.
- ✓ I try very hard to never have an assessment on Mondays, as I wish for everyone (including myself) to enjoy the weekend. Occasionally (rarely), I will have an assessment on Monday, but really it is not my goal to do so.

## ✓ Potential Projects

- ✓ Country Paper, Research Paper, and/or Biography

## ✓ How to Succeed

- ✓ Always come to class prepared
- ✓ Follow the rubric or directions given and ask if you do not understand the assignment.
- ✓ Don't rush, assignments are not a race. Put good thought and planning into your assignments. It is the difference between a 100 and a 94.
- ✓ Review your notes, do not take it for granted that your notes are perfect.
- ✓ Proof read your assignments, especially when turning in something on Google Classroom. Those red and blue squiggly lines mean something.
- ✓ **PLEASE, PLEASE**, make sure you and your parents have read the student/parent handbook. All information not covered in my syllabus is covered in the handbook.

## ✓ NOT SO NICE STUFF

- ✓ Detentions are given for uniform violations and misconduct (see handbook).

✓ Don't cheat! Short cuts do not work. Some students have learned this lesson the hard way.

✓ Be, Know, Do (Classroom Rules)

- Be nice, raise hand to talk and be courteous of others
- Know that there are others in the class who also would like to participate and hear what is happening
- Do the right thing even when no one is looking

## Student and Parent Acknowledgement

Please sign below showing the student as well as their parents have read and understood the classroom syllabus. Your student will show you online where to find the syllabus and explain what we discussed in class. If there are any questions please ask before signing. If not, this acknowledgement is due tomorrow and is the first grade of the year.

STUDENT: \_\_\_\_\_

PARENT: \_\_\_\_\_