

Northland Preparatory Academy

6th Grade Social Studies Syllabus 2015-2016

Teacher: Melissa Acker, email: macker@northlandprep.org

Course Description:

Welcome to sixth grade Social Studies. This is a survey course that emphasizes World history from its earliest cultures through the Enlightenment. This class is designed to challenge the students and help them learn more about the history of the world. We have engaging and exciting projects planned for this year!

Course Timeline:

1st Quarter

- Geography (Review)
 1. Common vocabulary
 2. Location and grid systems

- Mesopotamia & Egypt
 1. Introduction: Sumerians, Babylonians and Assyrians.
 2. Egyptian politics, economy, society
 3. Islam, Judaism & Christianity

3rd Quarter

- Greek & Roman
 1. Society
 2. Famous People
 3. Government
 4. Science and Technology

2nd Quarter

- India
 1. Caste system (Role Play)Buddhism

- China
 1. Inventions
 2. Dynasties
 3. Feudal Systems
 4. Living History Museum
 5. Taoism

4th Quarter

- Europe-
 1. Middle Ages
 2. The Crusades
 3. Renaissance
 4. Enlightenment

General Rules: Along with the rules and regulations put in place by NPA

1. Be on time
2. Be respectful to others and yourself
3. Be prepared
4. The teacher has the right to teach and the students have the right to learn

Expectations for Class:

Success of each student is the number one goal. To meet this goal, students should come to class every day prepared to give 100%. This starts with being on time, having homework completed, and being ready to participate during class time. All the teachers at NPA want their students to succeed, and so we ask our students, and teach them, how to advocate for themselves. Middle School is a great time for students to learn how to ask for help, to communicate with their teachers about difficulties on homework, making up work missed while out sick, etc. Indeed, these are crucial skills to help our middle schools students excel in high school and later in college.

The only person that can improve a student's performance is the individual student him or herself. The job of the teacher, then, is to coach, guide, and support the students, so that they know how to assess and improve their own work. To do this, students need strategies. All social studies lessons will introduce, reinforce, or tie together strategies that can be used not only in social studies, but in all the course courses, and will help the student become an exceptional student.

Absences and Late Work:

If a student is absent during the week, it is expected that they will make up any assignments in a time frame equal to the number of days missed. For example if a student misses two days of school, let's say Monday and Tuesday, then the work they missed would be due on Friday. A student should look on the class webpage to find out what has been missed during an absent day. Once work is made up, please make sure to turn it into the teacher. As a general rule, it is a good idea to have a study pal for each class, such as a classmate that can be called upon, afterschool, to find out what was covered in class. All work that is missed due to an absence is must be completed and turned in! This is an important opportunity for students to advocate for themselves: ask the teachers for help on missed work. It is very common for my students, to have lunch in my classroom while working on assignments missed due to absences or other reasons.

Tests & Quizzes:

Throughout a unit, quizzes will be given to check for each students understanding of the material. There will also be a unit test at the end of each unit. In most cases these tests include multiple choice and short answer questions. Tests are designed to assess both a conceptual understanding of the class material, as well as problem solving abilities. NPA students are expected to possess a high level of integrity and ethics and therefore cheating will not be tolerated.

Grading: Is based on a 100 point scale with

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

Success of the student is the main objective. My students usually do a great job on their homework. However, if I don't think a student understands the material assigned on a given homework, I may ask that it be recompleted and resubmitted. This doesn't happen often, but the concepts taught in social studies build upon one another, and it is important that students master material before moving on.

Projects:

Throughout the year each student will work on and complete various projects that simultaneously integrates knowledge from multiple course learning objectives, and sometimes beyond the social studies standards to include other 6th grade learning goals in writing, math, etc. The students are given the opportunity to use their creativity in making projects that demonstrate comprehension of the course topics, sometimes synthesizing lessons from all of their core courses. Past experience has shown these projects to be fabulous at tying together important learning objectives, and really helps the students truly learn the material being taught. Projects range from individual work to group work, and sometimes it is left to the student to decide whether to work in a group or as an individual. The students are given quite a bit of latitude in how to complete the projects, resulting in fantastic and creative outcomes. These projects can require a substantial amount of thought and time, but are very rewarding for the student.

Participation:

As a regular part of this class we will be discussing various concepts, results, or homework. During these discussions it is expected that each student is ready to participate, including listening attentively to classmates or contributing to the discussion. These discussions will be a way for me to check each student's understanding and to assess how well they are learning the material.

There is a high correlation between students that participate in discussions and students that get good grades. Likewise, there is a high correlation between students who perform poorly in class and students that do not participate in discussions. It is to each student's

advantage to raise any questions or comments when discussion is going on.

Extra Help/Make-up Work

Anyone that is having difficulty with anything in this course, including making up missed work, should see me as soon as possible. I can schedule a time that is convenient to meet, and am available after school or before school on most days.

Bathroom Policy

If any time is missed in class, you will likely miss important details from class. It is best to use the restroom and drinking fountain during passing periods.

Please have the following section initialed, signed, and returned to class by Friday, August 21, 2015.

____ (Student Initials) I have reviewed the syllabus, requirements, and policies of the course (including the NPA homework policy), and agree to abide by them.

Student Name _____ Student Signature _____ Date _____

Parent/Guardian Name _____ Parent Signature _____ Date _____