

Riverside Middle School
6TH Grade Social Studies Syllabus
Mr. J. Jenkins
E-108

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When e-mailing me please include in the subject line your child's first and last name as well as the period in which I teach him/her.

My website

<http://teachers.greenville.k12.sc.us/sites/jjenkins/default.aspx>

Textbook

The textbook for this year is titled *Journey Across Time: the Early Ages.*

Learning and Development Goals

The overarching goal of my classes is to create a habitable learning environment for all my students: to instill in them a sense of understanding for our world, how it has evolved historically, how it is interconnected, and specifically how the past has helped, and continues to help, shape the future. The students should also gain an initial understanding of the rights and responsibilities of citizenship and a sense of what makes a community function properly. Most of all I want to make history come alive for my students so that they see today's actions as being a part of what shapes their futures.

Classroom Materials

Students will need to bring each day their Unit Sheet, a pencil, a pen (blue or black), a highlighter, color pencils, and wide ruled paper. These materials will be used to meet the particular goals of each class.

Assessment

Students will be graded on 2 levels. 50% of the grade will come from minor assessments (20% homework 30% other minor grades including in-class work) and 50% from major assessments. Most units will adhere to the following format. An introduction to a unit will contain ~ 3 to 6 minor grades. A Unit Sheet which is a collection of grades will be equal to one major grade. A wrap up of a unit will contain ~ 3 to 6 minor grades. Overall, each Report Card will have a minimum number of 12 minor assessments and 3 major assessments with a weight of 50/50 in accordance to a new district mandate. For Unit Sheets students will be given points for each assignment. The amount of points available to be earned will be based on the amount of time spent on the assignment, its difficulty, and the amount of readily available resources to find answers. Students will mostly be graded based upon a system known as oral defense which, is document in Kathie F. Nunley's book titled *Layered Curriculum: The practical solution for teachers with more than one student in their classroom.* The points earned in each unit will be counted and assigned a letter grade based on the grading scale listed below:

Grading Scale
93-100 A
85-92 B
77-84 C
70-76 D
69 or less F

General Information

Passes out of class are written at the teacher's discretion. I generally do not allow students to use the restroom once instruction has begun. When I do allow students to leave they will sign, date, and give the time on a community sign-out sheet, which will be monitored for unusual patterns.

Units of Instruction

- Units of instruction are listed below and will generally follow a two week schedule. This is subject to change based upon many factors a few of which include, district and/or school wide testing schedules, Holiday's, assemblies, fire drills and the necessity to extend instruction to aid in student mastery of a unit.

<i>First Quarter</i>	Geography Prehistory (Paleolithic/Neolithic) Egypt India/China/Asian religions
<i>Second Quarter</i>	Greece Other religions Rome
<i>Third Quarter</i>	Middle Ages (Europe) Renaissance Reformation
<i>Fourth Quarter</i>	Africa Americas Age of Exploration

Due to the fact that the primary goal is to maximize student achievement, material may be added, deleted, and/or substituted based on student needs, learning styles, and/or levels in each class at the teacher's discretion

To see written details on the State Standards please refer to the Riverside Middle Web Page and follow the links.

RULES AND PROCEDURES:

Class Rules

Watch Your Mouth- Students will exhibit courtesy and respect toward all other students at all times. Hateful comments concerning race, gender, sexuality, political views, appearance, or of any other type will not be tolerated; this applies to serious as well as "joking" comments.

Keep Your Hands to Yourself- Violent, aggressive, and/or suggestive physical contact of any kind is not permitted. Violation of this simple rule will be punished by the most severe consequences possible.

Nothing Goes Airborne- Nothing will go airborne in class at any time. This includes pens, paper, and other students.

Preparation- When I am ready to start class all students should be prepared with pencils sharpened, work out, and bottoms pressed firmly to their seats! Preparation also includes a clean and tidy area at the end of class so the next class can be ready when they arrive.

If YOU CHOOSE to Break a Rule:

Punishments will always fit the crime. Of course there are behaviors that will warrant a Referral immediately. Examples of this include gross insubordination or violent behavior. Behaviors that are less severe, but in violation of the basic rules of the class will be dealt with in the manner consistent with a grade level discipline plan. All students begin each quarter with 0 points. The addition of points is based on student behaviors in and outside of teachers' classrooms. Be aware that any employee and when appropriate volunteer of Riverside Middle School can request a point addition for misbehaviors while on school grounds.

Warning

Warning/Point deduction

Warning/Point deduction

3 points: Warning/letter sent home

4 points: Loss of star and reward card

5 points: Referral for detention

Warning/Point deduction

Warning/Point deduction

8 points: Warning/letter sent home

Warning/Point deduction

10 points: Referral for In School Suspension

After 10 points, students will continue to accrue point deductions and will be referred to the appropriate administrator for administrative disciplinary actions

Detentions

Detentions will be served on Tuesday Mornings. Detentions are a specific disciplinary action I take within the context of my classroom. I view this as a measure to take in conjunction with the team discipline policy. Detentions can only be served before school. At least one day notice will always be given. Students receiving a detention on a Tuesday may serve it the following Tuesday if necessary. A letter will be sent home whenever a detention is assigned to a student listing the time, place, date, and reason for the detention. Lunch detention is served at school during students' regular lunch period.

Tardiness and Late Arrivals

Any Student who is not in the classroom, seated, and prepared to work when the bell sounds is considered tardy. My position is that if I can not start class due to waiting for a particular student to be ready, that constitutes a tardy. Tardy students are not to disrupt the class. Tardy students need to give their pass to me. **There is no penalty for arriving late with a pass.** The tardy penalty is explained below:

Definition: A Student who is not in the classroom, seated, and prepared to work when the bell sounds and does not have a legitimate pass constitutes a Tardy.

- **First Tardy** - Student receives a warning.
- **All further tardiness will result in a point addition**

Further tardiness will be handled by the office as indicated in the student handbook

Academic Honesty

It is expected that students will use genuine, sincere, and fair means for the accomplishment of the tests, tasks, or projects from which evaluations of progress shall be determined. Students found plagiarizing, copying or cheating in any way will receive automatic zeros and have phone calls made to their parents. Flagrant or repeated offenses will result in a failing grade for the unit, quarter and/or semester depending on the nature of the incident.

Attendance

If a student has an excused absence from class he/she is responsible for the assignments that were missed.

Late Work

Late work is not a habit students should get into. However, I do accept some but not all late work. Late work is only accepted for the nine weeks grading period the class is currently operating under for a maximum grade of 70%. Tests can be made up during the same grading period it was given as well by appointment only. Students may not be given the same test for a make-up but they will be eligible for maximum points on the make-up test. I will always give a student the highest grade earned. Tests will not be eligible for make up unless a student scores a 76% or lower and students will only be allowed to do one make-up per test and only two make-up tests per grading period.

Unit Work

All work for a given unit is issued ahead of time and is expected to be completed within the allotted time for a unit. Allowances will be made for a prolonged absence on a case by case basis. **Passes are available in the front office all year to allow for students to come to my room early, without an appointment,** to work. Be aware that students will be sent back to the office if they are not in my room to work.

Make-Up Tests due to an absence

* Students are expected to make-up tests the day they arrive back at school. All tests are announced ahead of time and posted on my website thus students should be prepared. This policy is firm and only under significant circumstances will allowances be made.

Class Procedures

Most Common Procedures

Entering the Classroom

Students will enter the classroom without screaming, running or otherwise causing a ruckus. Students who do not do this will be asked to leave the room and reenter as expected. It is expected that as soon as you enter you first go to your seat and place all materials on your desk. You should then get anything you need around the room (pencil sharpening, tissue, etc.). You can also use this time to briefly speak with me or make an appointment with me for help on work should you need it. Be sure to keep in mind the tardy policy while performing the afore mentioned tasks.

Picking up Materials for Day

Students will pick up material in an orderly fashion. Students are to pack up in accordance with the classroom rules and by following the POD requirements for the seat they sit in.

Handing in work

Students that finish work will place completed assignments on the edge of their desk. They will not raise their hands or get up to bring it to the teacher. The teacher will constantly circle the room conferencing with each student and checking all work at that time. If the teacher does not come by to see a student that student will then be able to turn in work to the teachers desk when prompted to do so and all work that was turned in will be graded overnight.

Coming to Attention

When I need to quiet the class, I will raise my hand. When you see this you are expected to stop your conversation or work and look at me. This is only complete when the class is quiet.

Leaving the Classroom

The bell does not dismiss the class, I do. Do not pack up until I dismiss the class. Do not leave your seats until I dismiss the class. People who pack fast shall leave last.

Using the Bathroom

The bathroom may only be used in emergencies. A pass is needed for leaving the class. Do not ask to use the washroom or go to your locker before class begins; just go before you get to class. Anyone Tardy for any reason without a pass is simply Tardy.

Procedures may be changed or added by the instructor. All procedures will be thoroughly rehearsed as a class.