

SOCIAL STUDIES SYLLABUS – MRS. BROST

Welcome!

I am pleased to welcome you back to Vista Heights Middle School and to my 7th grade **World History** class. I look forward to an exciting and rewarding year for our students. I invite and encourage the participation of all parents/guardians in your child's total learning process.

I hope that you will find this syllabus a useful tool to introduce you to my policies and expectations. I have given you as much information as I can squeeze into these pages, but please send me a note if you have any questions or E-mail me at: ybrost@mvusd.net. If you would like to learn more about this class, please visit my web site at the following address:

www.mrsbrost.com

Course Content:

This course is designed to teach to the 7th grade Social Science Standards. Please refer to the standards, which you received at registration, to fully understand the specific standards that this course entails. During this year, we will be examining the Fall of the Roman Empire to the Age of Exploration with an emphasis upon the cultures and history of Europe, Islam, Africa, and Mexico.

The Assignments

The discipline of history is often said to begin with the advent of the written word; thus, both reading and writing skills will be stressed in this class. However, we will also use art, music, videos, simulations, and your creativity to make the past come to life. The following are some of the types of assignments you will be completing this year:

Homework

Homework will be designed to reinforce the readings from your textbook and other class materials. For you to do well in this class, it is important to complete all of the assigned homework in a timely fashion. Homework will be assigned as needed, such as; for completion of class work and/or projects. Students will normally be given class time to begin work on an assignment with the expectation that they will finish it at home and return it to me on the due date. Students who waste time in class or who do not remain on task will receive a grade of zero on that assignment.

Maps

Geography is an important field in the social sciences and often influences the historical development of areas. It is especially important as Humans to know the geography of other countries. Therefore, students will be expected to draw, label, and color each location we discuss. Geography will be incorporated into daily lessons throughout the year.

Projects

During each unit we cover, you will be asked to work on one or more projects which will help you get personally involved in the time period you are studying. These projects will be both individual and cooperative in nature and will require searching for clues to unlock the mysteries of the past. These projects will help you develop your researching skills and will provide you with a wider variety of sources than your textbook can offer.

Tests/Quizzes

Tests and Quizzes will be based on the 7th grade Social Science Standards. At times you will be expected to write an essay that demonstrates your understanding of the standards addressed in each unit. Please refer to your copy of the standards so that you know what you will be tested on. You will always know in advance the standard that will be assessed.

Extra Credit

Students will earn one extra credit point per day they are present in class and enter quietly and begin reading a book of their choice. In order to receive the point, the reading material must be a book; either from home or the library (magazines and textbooks are not considered to be extra credit reading material.) Extra credit assignments will not be given to any student who has excessive late/missing work. Please do not ask.

Late Work

Students are given ample time in which to complete their work and are expected to turn it in on time. Work is due at the beginning of the class period on the date an assignment is due. I absolutely **DO NOT** accept late work, especially late projects. Completing homework is a choice, students choose to complete the assignment, and therefore, they choose to pass. Please do not ask for exceptions. **If a student has an excused absence, her/his work is not considered late because she/he was not present to receive the assignment. Students are responsible to ask about missed assignments upon their return to school.**

Illegible Work

Our classroom is our place of business, so when a student's work is messy, difficult to read, or lacks the proper heading, it is a reflection of one's self. Work that is submitted in this form will not be accepted. In order for an assignment to be grade, the following guidelines must be met:

1. The assignment must be on time.
2. The proper heading must be used and placed on the top right hand corner of the paper:
Name (First name, Last name)
Date
Period
*One point will be deducted on all incorrect headings.
3. The assignment must be handed directly to me (this way I know the student has completed the assignment.)

Materials

In order for your child to have a successful year in school, he/she will need to have the following items with them daily in order to participate fully in my classroom:

1. Book for POWER Reading
2. Two pens (blue or black ink only) -**Any work submitted in any other color will receive an automatic zero.**
3. Two mechanical pencils (I do sell pencils everyday - \$0.25 each)
4. White lined notebook filler paper
5. A spiral notebook designated to Social Science only for the sole purpose of note-taking.*
6. Colored pencils (for the many maps we will be creating)
7. A hand held pencil sharpener
8. An open mind and good attitude

***Work submitted on torn spiral notebook paper, colored paper, or partial sheets of paper will not be accepted and will receive an automatic zero.**

Students will not be given class time to ask friends for paper, pens, pencils, etc. as they are expected to maintain their own supply or borrow prior to the start of class. Students who continually disrupt class to **beg** for supplies will receive disciplinary action.

Grades

Grades will be based on a point system. All assignments will be give a point value and your total will accumulate throughout the trimester. Grades will be given using the standard percentage scale issued according to district policy.

Participation

Your involvement in this class will make it more exciting and educational. I encourage you to raise your hand and speak up in class, work cooperatively in your team projects, and help your fellow students with their learning. Together, we can all succeed. Your **active** participation in this class will positively affect your grade.

RULES AND PROCEDURES – MRS. BROST

Introduction:

Welcome to my Social Studies class! I look forward to working with you this year. In order to create a successful classroom environment, I have created a number of rules and procedures. I fully expect that those rules and procedures will be strictly adhered to; however, those students who choose to violate these rules and procedures will be subject to the discipline policy.

Classroom Rules:

One of the 1st steps to a workable and safe learning environment is the maintenance of appropriate behavior. The class rules will be discussed in detail with all students on the first day of school and will be practiced throughout the year. In addition to all school and team rules, students must:

1. Respect each other and each other's property.
2. Be prepared, on time, with all materials ready.
3. No disruptive behavior, behave in a manner that does not interfere with anyone's ability to learn.
4. Remain on task at all times.
5. Raise your hand.

Discipline Policy:

The discipline policy will be discussed in detail with all students on the first day of school and will be enforced throughout the year. Students will be rewarded with verbal praise and positive citizenship marks for complying with the policy. Students who choose not to follow the classroom rules will receive the following consequences:

1. Warning (given the first day of school)
2. Teacher/Student conference
3. Time out in another classroom, parent contact by phone or with a note sent home with the student, if parent cannot be contacted.
4. Teacher/Student/Parent conference
5. Class suspension
6. Referral to appropriate counselor/principal

*****A student with behaviors that are more than a classroom disruption and/or I feel may cause physical/mental harm to others will be skipping #1 through #5 and a campus supervisor will be called to remove the student from my room.*****

Entering the classroom

Please enter the classroom with a book to read without talking, keeping hands, feet, and other objects to oneself. If others are already in the room reading, please do not disturb them. Please do not run and/or shout inside the classroom! Sit at your desk and immediately begin reading.

Talking and leaving one's seat

You may talk quietly to other students only if I have said okay first. Otherwise, work silently at your desk. If you need to leave your seat for any reason, raise your hand and wait for my okay.

Finishing early

If you finish early, please check your work to see if it is neat, complete, and correct. If this is the case, please complete my other work from the day that you may not have had time to finish. If all work is done, please take out a book and read silently at you desk. Other options will be available at my discretion. If you are directed to other alternatives, please remember to work/play quietly and do not draw attention to yourself, otherwise this privilege might be taken away.

Toys/Cell Phones

Toys/Cell Phones are not to be brought to school as they distract a child from learning, can be stolen, broken, lost, or traded unwisely. Toys include electronic games, baseball cards, walkmans, sporting equipment, etc. if found, toys/cell phones will be confiscated and student's parent/guardian must collect items from the office, *not from my classroom*.

Gum

You may not chew gum in my classroom. There is a “Gum Bucket” in my classroom. You will be expected to get rid of your gum as you enter my classroom (without penalty), however, if you choose to keep your gum, you will be given a referral for defiance, *not* gum chewing.

Bathroom/Drinks

Students are expected to try and take care of such needs before class, during break or pass periods, and after school. I will give a bathroom pass only in extreme cases (maximum of 2 per class.) Students have exactly 3 minutes to take care of business. I will refuse to let any student use the restroom during the first or last 10 minutes of class and during 4th period. No one will be allowed to leave class to use the water fountain, nor will they be allowed to use the water fountain in class. **Only water bottles may be brought in**, (NO SODAS) although, if the bottles are left on the floor after students have left, water bottles will not be permitted. Also, students who play with a water bottle like a toy will have the bottle and the privilege taken away.

Personal grooming

Personal grooming, such as brushing your hair and putting on make-up, is not allowed in the classroom at any time. If this rule is broken, items will be confiscated and student’s parent/guardian will collect items at the end of the year from my classroom. Hats are not allowed to be worn in my classroom. Any student wearing a hat in class will have it taken away from them and be asked to return any day after school, straighten up the room, and collect it from my classroom.

Plagiarism: Plagiarism is defined as copying work from someone else and presenting it as your own. **It will not be tolerated.** If I believe that a student has not done his or her own work, I will assess zero credit to it. If a student allows his or her work to be copied by someone, that student will also receive zero credit. Copying information from the Internet without giving proper credit is plagiarism and will be dealt with accordingly.

Office Announcements

When an office announcement is heard, please freeze and listen silently.

Emergency Procedures

I have special rules and consequences that go into effect if a fire drill, earthquake drill, or other emergency procedure occurs. The rules are: 1. You will be quiet and in a single-file line, and 2. You will not communicate with people who are not in my class that period in any way (this includes talking, waving, signaling, etc.) Should you choose to violate my emergency procedure rules, you will earn a consequence. This may include, but is not limited to, after school detention and repeated practice of the emergency procedures.

Visitors

Please treat all visitors to our classroom with courtesy and respect this includes substitute teachers.

My Desk

Students are **not** allowed behind my desk, for any reason, unless personally invited.

Dismissal

Students will wait in their seats and make sure their desktops are clear, the floor around them is clean, all rows are lined up and even, and then they shall sit quietly, showing that they are ready to be dismissed. I will dismiss the class at the appropriate time.

Other procedures shall be added as the need arises.

Thank You!

I thank you in advance for putting forth your best effort this year. If you need help or have questions at any time, please feel free to ask – I am here to help you succeed. Let’s get ready to have a great start to a new school year! Together, we can create an excellent classroom environment.

COMPUTER USE POLICY

Throughout the year, students in our classes will utilize today's technology to enhance their educational experience. In order to create a positive experience for everyone involved, we have created special rules that will be followed while using the class computers or while working in the computer lab. The rules are as follows:

1. You will immediately follow any instructions given by Mrs. Brost or any of the other core teachers.
2. You will never bring food, liquid, or gum near any computer or into the computer lab. Backpacks are not allowed in the Computer Lab.
3. You will only use the computer to do work directly related to the assignment given by Mrs. Brost or any of the other core teachers. Examples of work **NOT** related to the assignment include, but are not limited to: playing games, accessing inappropriate sites on the Internet (which includes game, music, sports sites, etc. – any site that is not directly related to the current assignment), accessing personal e-mail, etc.
4. You will never negatively impact the software on the computer. Examples of negatively impacting the software include, but are not limited to: changing the settings, deleting other students' work, applications, or shortcuts, downloading applications from the internet, introducing viruses, etc.
5. You will never negatively impact the hardware of the computer. Examples of negatively impacting the hardware include, but are not limited to: removing the track ball, damaging or removing keys, disconnecting items, inserting unauthorized items into the drives, writing on the computer, etc.
6. You will adhere to all of the rules and guidelines according to the District's Acceptable Use Policy.

Students who chose not to follow our rules in any way will be subject to the following disciplinary action:

- Normal class / team / school consequences
- Removal from the computer lab
- Your computer privileges will be revoked for the assignment and for up to the rest of the year. You will complete the assignment (and future assignments) without the benefit of computer technology.

Your signature and the signature of your parent acknowledge that you have read and understood these rules. If you do not return the **Acknowledgement of Computer Lab Use** with the appropriate signatures, you will not be able to use the computers in the computer lab. You will be responsible for completing any assignment given without the benefit of the computers. Please return the **Acknowledgement** by the given due date. Thank you very much.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Brost