

Sixth Grade Social Studies 2023-2024

Welcome to Sixth Grade Social Studies! Things will be a bit different from what you've been learning in Social Studies in the past. We even have a new textbook (as of 2021)! You'll find that this class can be interesting.

We will be focusing on some of the earliest civilizations known to man. After reviewing some easy Social Studies basics like geography, climates & cultures, we will learn about things that have made us the people that we are today. It might seem like we are learning about a lot of dead people and ancient empires, but these long-gone people have contributed to our culture. But what is class going to be like?

Things last year were a little more normal than the year before. Hopefully this year will be even more like what we're used to. I'm going to do my best to teach you and I ask you to do your best to learn. That's all we can do. But in order for you to do your best, you need to follow the instructions that I give you – and when you don't understand something, you **ABSOLUTELY NEED TO TELL ME!!!**

How Social Studies Class Works:

Daily Assignment Board:

In the front of the room on my dry-erase board, you will see the daily assignment board. It is divided by grade level and into what we will be doing that day along with any homework.

Your first job when you come into the room is to take out your assignment books and write down any homework listed on the board. If nothing is on the board, you must still write the word "none" in your assignment book under Social Studies. We may also have this material available online in a "virtual classroom" in a Google Slide.

READ:

This is a pretty simple class. You are expected to **read the material assigned**, discuss it in class, ask questions, do your assignments, and take tests. There's really not that much more to it. Your biggest responsibility will be to **READ!!!**

Chromebooks:

Having these charged and ready to go every day will be necessary. You won't always need them, however, when you do, you'd better be ready. Plugging in your Chromebook whenever you're not in school is the best way to ensure this. If your Chromebook has a technical issue – get it into the office ASAP.

Communication:

This is extremely important. If I need to know something – you **HAVE TO TELL ME!!!** You can tell me during class (if it's an appropriate time to do so) or before or after class. Don't want to tell me in person, then email me! Contact me at mdanforth@sahs.k12.il.us. If you are not getting a response, try mrdan4th@hotmail.com. I will do my best to get back to you as quickly as I can. Email communication will be even more important if you are quarantined or we have to go back to full or partial remote learning.

Materials:

We have a new textbook, "World History – Great Civilizations" by National Geographic this year. You will need to have your book **COVERED AT ALL TIMES**. You will also be able to access this textbook online – I will get you the details. There will be a number of ways for you to read so there really is no excuse not to. I will also have materials you need at: <http://www.danforthnews.com/onlinecopies.htm>. So, there is no excuse for not having what you need. If you're having a problem, be sure to let me know.

Google Classroom:

Hopefully we will remain in the building this year so we won't have to rely as much on Google Classroom as we did two years ago. Quizzes and some worksheets will be posted in Google Classroom, but tests will remain on paper (as long as we are not remote). There also may be supplemental material you will be accessing in Google Classroom.

Reading Quizzes:

I've already made clear how important it is for you to read. On the day after you have been assigned to read a lesson or lessons in each chapter, you will take a Quiz to ensure that you have read. Each Reading Evaluation will consist of anywhere between 2 and 10 questions per lesson. Each question will count as one point and will be a part of your grade. These will be taken using your Chromebook so if you come to class without it or it is uncharged, you will receive a zero for the entire quiz

Vocabulary:

You will have a **vocabulary packet** that you should always have with you in this class. Your job will be to fill out the chapter section that we are working on and have it ready on the day that it is due. You won't be turning it in – instead I will check your vocabulary when I check your **assignment books** (at the beginning of every class). If you have your vocab done then you'll get the full 10 points. If you don't have it done you won't get any points and may be marked as unprepared. If you've only done some of it, you'll get a few points. It is important to know that if you **do not** have this on the day it is due – you will receive a **zero** and will not be able to make this assignment up. Doing vocab is really easy – you just look up the definitions in the glossary of your textbook or go to www.danforthnews.com and click on the 6th Grade Vocabulary page.

Worksheets/Assignments:

There will be times when you will be assigned supplemental work that will require you to read material or watch a video. You will then need to answer the questions that go along with this – on paper or using a Google Form assigned through Google Classroom. These assignments will need to be turned in by the due date or they will automatically be reduced by 10%.

Online Class Sessions (for Quarantine or Remote Learning):

Odds are that you will not know you will need to be doing remote learning until you have to. Since that is the case, you have to be ready - you **CAN'T COME UNPREPARED** & you **MUST COME ON TIME** (full name, camera on, your face on the screen & you'll be muted until called on). If you don't understand something – you **HAVE TO TELL ME!**

Review for Test:

We will review before tests. Since we will hopefully all be in the building, I'm hoping to play a Jeopardy review game. You've never played it before – it's really fun! If there is a problem, we might go back to playing Kahoot! Bottom line, however, is that you need to show me as a group that you deserve to play a game for your Chapter Review.

Tests:

Just as always, you will be evaluated on the material that we've covered. The difference from last year will be that you will take your tests on paper. You will take them in class. You will **NOT** take them on your Chromebooks unless that is our only alternative. If you are out of school for quarantine, you will take the test when you return.

Points – Grades:

If you haven't figured it out already, you should know that your grade in this class will be determined by how many points you earn. Look at the example to see how this works.

Assignment	Total Points Possible	Student X's Points	Percentage
Ch. 3 Vocabulary	10	10	100%
Worksheet 18/19	12	9	75%
Worksheet 21	11	10	91%
Ch. 3 Crossword	30	27	90%
Ch. 3 Test	35	25	71%
Totals:	98	81	83%

As you can see here, Student X didn't do so well on the test, yet because he did his homework fairly well, he is averaging an 83% in Social Studies class. This is why doing your homework correctly will help you in class. If you don't understand how this all works, please make sure you ask me.

Needed Materials:

- ★ Your textbook – *World History: Great Civilizations* – **IT MUST BE COVERED AT ALL TIMES!!!**
- ★ Vocabulary Packet
- ★ Spiral Notebook – at least 70 pages (*optional*)
- ★ Something to write with – either pen (blue or black ink only) or pencil
- ★ Highlighter – to highlight when needed
- ★ Colored pencils when assigned

Homework:

The majority of all Social Studies homework will consist of reading assigned pages from the textbook. In order to be prepared for class, you must be familiar with the material being discussed. The only way to do this is to read!!! Reading assigned, will most likely consist of less than ten pages and should not take up more than 20 to 30 minutes of your time. Homework other than reading is to be expected on an “as assigned” basis.

Web Site: www.danforthnews.com

You will need to get used to going to my website. I try to keep it updated as much as I can. You will be able to get your vocabulary there. You will sometimes be able to get access to materials for class (including your text). Even more importantly, you can send me an email from there – mrdan4th@hotmail.com

Your Job:

- ★ Read the materials assigned
- ★ Ask questions when you don't understand something;
COMMUNICATE!!!
- ★ Have your work done and turned in on time
- ★ Study for quizzes/tests
- ★ Do the best you can do
- ★ Have fun!

My Job:

- ★ Answer your questions
- ★ Grade your work in as timely a manner as possible
- ★ Do the best I can to help you understand the subject
- ★ Make your experience as enjoyable as possible

Other:

Remember that you determine the grade you receive in Social Studies class. If you cover all of the points under “Your Job” above, you will easily pass this class – and hopefully you'll have a good time doing it. There's nothing we will be doing that you won't be able to do. If you find yourself having problems or just have a question, be sure to come see me! I am always available – before school, after school, and on the Internet.

Final Note

We will still have fun and learn – despite the weirdness that is still going on in the world. All we can do is our best. If you think something I'm doing isn't working for you – **PLEASE LET ME KNOW.** We can do this together and we will get through these strange days!

Let's Have a Great Year!!!