

7th Grade

Social Studies

2023-2024

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!!!**

Just like last year, we will need to be flexible. Nonetheless, there will be things that will remain the same. Just like always, **READING ASSIGNED MATERIAL** will be your most important responsibility. You will be responsible for your homework and anything else assigned. Let's take a look at what this will be like:

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:

You'll get hard copies of everything you will need for this class in school. 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 return to 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/Identification:

Like always, you will be graded on filling out your Vocabulary/Identification form (this is **NOT** using Google Classroom). This will be available in the form of hard copies that I will give you in class. If you misplace this particular hard copy, you must write the information down on paper to receive a grade. You'll find the definitions & descriptions at www.danforthnews.com or on the Master Vocabulary/Identification hard copy you will also receive in class (also available at <http://www.danforthnews.com/onlinecopies.htm>). On the day that this is due, I will circulate through class to check that it is finished. The amount of points is the same – 10 points. Don't lose this because it will be very helpful when it comes time to take tests. 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.

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%.

Notes:

We will go over the material you read using PowerPoint. You'll begin the year with note packets that you will fill out. You'll have these for chapters 1 through 8. Beginning with Chapter 9 of our text, you will have to take these on your own. You'll be doing so **ON PAPER** – not on your Chromebooks. If you miss class, you should try to get the notes you've missed from someone else in class. If all else fails, see me for help.

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!**

Test Coupons (NEW):

During our notetaking for each chapter, there will be opportunities for you to earn free points toward your test score. At certain times we will stop taking notes and you may be asked a question based on your reading. If you answer correctly, you will receive a coupon that is worth one question (one point) on your test

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. 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
Chapter 1 Vocabulary	10	10	100%
Lesson 1 Quiz	3	2	67%
Lesson 2 Quiz	3	3	100%
Lesson 3 Quiz	3	2	67%
Lesson 4 Quiz	5	4	80%
Lesson 5 Quiz	5	4	80%
English Colonies in 1763 Worksheet	10	8	80%
Chapter 1 Test	35	24	69%
Totals:	74	57	77%

As you can see here, Student X didn't do so well on the test or even on all the quizzes. Yet because the Vocabulary was done correctly and the Worksheet done well, this student has a 77% (C) in Social Studies. If you aren't prepared, you will have difficulty.

Needed Materials:

- ★ Your packet of reading material:
 - Illinois & U.S. Constitution Guides when we are covering this subject
 - Chapter Reading
- ★ Vocabulary/Identification Sheet
- ★ Spiral Notebook – at least 70 pages
- ★ Something to write with – either pen (blue or black ink only) or pencil
- ★ Highlighter – to highlight the Constitution guide, notes or reading packets

You ***must*** have the above materials at all times during Social Studies Class. ***NO EXCEPTIONS!!!***

Homework:

The majority of all Social Studies homework will consist of reading assigned pages from the reading packet. 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 30 minutes of your time. Homework other than reading is to be expected on an "as assigned" basis.

When you are reading, you will notice some large letters behind the printed text. These symbols represent the Illinois Social Science Standards **four core disciplines**. Every time you see one of these letters, you will know that the reading is connected to one of these disciplines. They are Civics, Geography, Economics and Financial Literacy & History



- **Civics:** This area focuses on political institutions like government and how people apply rules and laws.
- **Geography:** This covers everything from maps to how people use places, regions and develop culture.
- **Economics and Financial Literacy:** This is about how people make decisions about money and marketplaces as well as money effects people at home & around the world.
- **History:** You'll see this symbol more than any other. This is all about how things have changed, who has caused these changes and how they are viewed and effect the way things are today.

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.

Let's Have a Great Year!!!

Illinois Constitution

Sections:

- Chapter 1 – Illinois History - pages 1 to 8
- Chapter 2 – The Legislative Branch - pages 9 to 16
- Chapter 3 – The Executive & Judicial Branches - pages 16 to 22
- Chapter 4 – Illinois Voting and Municipal Government - pages 22 to 27
- Illinois Constitution Study Guide - pages 27 to 31
- Illinois Constitution Glossary page 32

Quizzes:

- Chapter 1 Quiz – Illinois History (25 questions – covering pages 1 to 8)
- Chapter 2 Quiz – Legislative Branch (25 questions – covering pages 9 to 16)
- Chapter 3 Quiz – Executive & Judicial Branches (25 questions – covering pages 16 to 22)
- Chapter 4 Quiz – Illinois Voting & Municipal Government (25 questions – covering pages 22 to 27)

Exam:

- State of Illinois Constitution Test (75 questions)
- Pass/Fail for Constitution Test determined by average of quizzes & test (175 points) = 69% needed for passing.

United States Constitution

Sections:

- Chapter 1 – History of the Constitution - pages 1 to 7
- Chapter 2 – The Legislative Branch - pages 8 to 16
- Chapter 3 – Lawmaking pages 17 to 24
- Chapter 4 – The Executive Branch - pages 25 to 32
- Chapter 5 – The Executive Cabinet pages 33 to 37
- Chapter 6 – The Judicial Branch - pages 38 to 44
- Chapter 7 – Articles IV to VII & Amendments pages 45 to 52
- United States Constitution Study Guide - pages 53 to 58
- United States Constitution Glossary pages 59 to 60

Quizzes:

- Chapter 1 Quiz – History of the Constitution (20 questions – covering pages 1 to 7)
- Chapter 2 Quiz – The Legislative Branch (20 questions – covering pages 8 to 16)
- Chapter 3 Quiz – Making Laws (20 questions – covering pages 17 to 24)
- Chapter 4 Quiz – The Executive Branch (20 questions – covering pages 25 to 32)
- Chapter 5 Quiz – Executive Cabinet (20 questions – covering pages 33 to 37)
- Chapter 6 Quiz – The Judicial Branch (20 questions – covering pages 38 to 44)
- Chapter 7 Quiz – Articles IV to VII & Amendments (20 questions – covering pages 45 to 52)

Exam:

- United States Constitution Test (100 questions)
- Pass/Fail for Constitution Test determined by average of quizzes & test (240 points) = 69% needed for passing.

Syllabus¹

Chapter	Time in History	# of Pages	Point Value of Quizzes/Tests	Approximate Days to Cover
Illinois Constitution	1600s to present day	32	Quizzes: 100 Exam: 75	16
1	@18,000 B.C. to 1732	15	Q: 19 – T:35	4
2	1754 to 1774	8	Q: 12 – T:37	8
3	1775 to 1783	12	Q: 19 – T:45	8
United States Constitution	1700s to present day	60	Quizzes: 140 Exam: 100	30
4	1789 to 1800	16	Q: 22 – T:45	16
5	1801 to 1810	12	Q: 16 – T:37	7
6	1811 to 1827	15	Q: 20 – T:50	13
7	1828 to 1839	18	Q: 22 – T:50	12
8	1840 to 1849	14	Q: 14 – T:40	12
9	Mid 19 th Century	16	Q: 15 – T:35	9
10	1850 to 1859	15	Q: 17 – T:50	9
11	1860 to 1865	25	Q: 24 – T:65	20
Totals:		256	1104	164

The table above represents what you will be covering this year in Social Studies class. The last column is the best guess as to how long it should take us to cover each chapter. This is an estimate – we will do our best to make sure that you understand the material before we move on.

Please note that the “Approximate Days to Cover” is based on being in school full time. I’m not sure how this will work out, but I will do my best to cover the material you need to know.

Final Note

We will still have fun and learn – despite the weirdness that is 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!

¹ An outline or a summary of the main points of a text, lecture, or course of study.