

SEVENTH GRADE SOCIAL STUDIES OPEN HOUSE INFORMATION

The seventh grade year has been traditionally divided into two semesters. Geography would be presented the first semester and New Mexico History the second semester. This year the study of New Mexico will be integrated in the Geography core. When we begin to study the Southwest region of the United States, the units will be extended to cover what is to be learned about New Mexico History. During the course of the year the students will be introduced to the following and be able to:

- I. Demonstrate knowledge of latitude and longitude, make different kinds of maps, be able to locate various places and identify countries and capitals and show understanding of scale, key and legend.
- II. Develop cross curriculum skills using all subjects to learn Social Studies. Understand graphs, time zones, interpret information, identify main ideas and details, use resources, write better, make and verify predictions.
- III. Explain physical geography including the affect of the sun, water cycle, role of climate in the natural environment, natural resources, human interaction with and effect on the natural environment.
- IV. Identify in a particular area its location, boundaries, major physical features and population characteristics.
- V. Recognize similarities and differences between the United States and a variety of other countries on the following topics: economy, government, population, trade and technology.
- VI. Be aware of the significance of the Spanish Exploration in the history of New Mexico. Explain the colonization of and early history of New Mexico.
- VII. List contributions of many different cultural groups to present day New Mexico.
- VII. Be able to explain in detail the most important events and modern day enterprises of New Mexico.

MISSION STATEMENT

Our school's mission is to provide a Christ-like and learner friendly environment to better serve God and community.

The following are my requirements for this class.

HOMEWORK

Homework is given for three purposes:

1 - Review 2 - Preview 3 - Enrichment

Homework is usually given nightly and should take no more than 15 minutes.

Homework often requires reading a section with the knowledge that the following day a *quiz* will be given on the material read. Homework will be collected or checked at the beginning of class. Late or *illegible* work will receive 50% of the grade if it is turned in the next day. After that a zero for the assignment will be given. Three late assignments will result in a detention.

QUIZZES

Quizzes will be based on the previous night's reading. Quizzes will consist of ten questions of ten points each. Two bonus question of ten points will be given with each quiz for a total of 120 points. The lowest quiz per quarter will be dropped. Quizzes will be averaged to equal a test grade. Once a week an "open note" quiz will be given.

TESTS

At the end of each unit there will be a test usually consisting of multiple choice and short essays. Students should answer essays in proper format. This includes a topic sentence, supporting facts and a conclusion. Students can also expect essay tests as well. 7th grade's test day is Tuesday. 6th and 8th grade's test day is Thursday.

BINDERS

Students will be responsible for keeping their work in a binder. Binders will be reviewed periodically and students will receive a grade for having all the necessary papers. Binders consist of six sections: 1) *tests*, 2) *quizzes*, 3) *home/class work*, 4) *notes*, 5) *vocabulary*, & 6) *miscellaneous*. 8th grade binders will also contain three other sections: 7) *constitution*
8) *president* and 9) *final*

GRADING

Test and quizzes - 50%

Class work and homework - 50%

Grades will be determined according to the scale in the handbook. Also with each letter grade comes an effort and conduct grade.

WORKBOOK (8TH GRADE ONLY)

Accompanying the 8th Grade text, *The American Nation*, there is a student study guide (workbook). Each chapter is divided into 4 - 5 sections. In the workbook, there is one page of questions for each section and there is also a chapter study guide (review) consisting of two pages. I will be collecting the end of the chapter study guide for a homework grade. I will not, however, be collecting the individual section study guide pages. Students who have trouble with quizzes should be utilizing these section study guide pages. They help to reinforce the readings and often contain questions that will be on the quizzes.

WORKBOOK (6TH GRADE ONLY)

Accompanying the 6th Grade text, *World, Adventure in Time and Place*, there is a student workbook. Many of the homework pages will be taken from this book. However, we will not be completing every page in this book. I will inform students of pages that count as homework, and students will remove these pages from the workbook on due dates. Students who have trouble with tests and quizzes may want to complete the unassigned pages for extra practice. Besides the workbook other worksheets will given as homework.

7th GRADE TEXTS

The 7th grader text did not come with a workbook. Instead worksheets will be assigned as needed for each chapter and section as needed. Please be aware of the fact that the 7th graders will be using two different text: *Western Hemisphere* and *A History of New Mexico*.

EXTRA CREDIT

Students may earn up to 5 points on their *homework grade* by watching *This Week in History*. Students will then take a quiz based on the information in the show. This show can normally be viewed on the History Channel on Friday night at 9:00 PM. Occasionally the schedule does change, so students need to pay attention to the homework board. If students do not have cable they need to speak to me *after school*. I have taped previous shows for them to view. Since I only have a limited amount of prerecorded shows (and 123 students) I can only lend out tapes to students who do not have cable. Students who have cable are responsible for watching/recording any extra credit shows they wish to receive. Extra credit will begin next week on Friday, September 19, 2003.

EFFORT AND CONDUCT GRADES

Effort is based on what I see in class.

- 1 - Displays a *maximum* effort at *all* times.
- 2 - Displays a *maximum* effort *most* of the time.
- 3 - Does not do their best.
- 4 - Consistently shows a lack of effort.

Conduct is based on the expectation of the teacher and the policies in our handbook.

- 1 - *Always* sets a good example & *never* has to be reminded about behavior.
- 2 - *Always* sets a good example, but has been reminded about behavior occasionally.
- 3 - *Almost* always sets a good example, but has been reminded about behavior more than three times in a quarter.
- 4 - *Consistently* is being reminded about behavior. *Detentions* have been given and a *conference* with the parents has been held.

Students should constantly work on:

- being organized
- being responsible
- being prepared
- being a person of good character