

Welcome!

This year's 7th Grade Social Studies curriculum will encourage students to make connections between their curriculum, their community, and their world. Through a careful study of the Bill of Rights and our Constitution, we will learn about the plan of government for the United States and use this knowledge to create informed opinions on current political issues. Throughout the year we will focus on making connections between current events and various areas of our curriculum. The topics that will be covered this year include Civics, Geography, and World History.

Thanks to a grant from the Norwell Education Foundation, our class is equipped with four amazing stand-up desks. These will provide an improved learning environment for all students, and we are excited to observe the impact that these movement and stretch breaks will have on students' focus, well being, and learning.

Materials:

Students will need the following **everyday**.

- Charged** iPad (Put your iPad on a charger every night before going to bed)
- One section of a 3 ring binder with whitened paper
- Pen, Pencil, and Highlighter
- Colored Pencils (in your locker)
- THREE SITES**
 - 1.) **aspen** (grade portal)
 - 2.) **teacher/team pages** (Norwell Middle School site) This is where homework assignments will be posted
 - 3.) **Google Classroom**. Our class uses google classroom to post and access PDFs, all students will be given a login and parents/guardians are encouraged to check the google classroom as well.

Class Behavior/Rules:

- Respect your classmate's ideas, no put downs
- Absolutely no bullying
- Raise your hand, no yelling out
- Bring all necessary materials to class every day, I will give advance notice when you will need colored pencils. Your iPad/Book, binder and writing utensils should be with you EVERY DAY.
- Each class will work to create an additional set of classroom rules in the form of their own "Classroom Constitution" during the school year.

Grading:

- Your grade will be calculated using a total point system. Homework, Classwork/ Participation, Quizzes, Tests and Projects will all be taken into consideration. No category is weighted, but obviously a quiz worth 50 points will have a greater impact on your final grade than a homework check worth 3 points. I will do my best to update the grade book on aspen as often as possible.

Homework:

Please take a minute to review the homework policy on the class website

- Homework is extremely important! There will be an assignment of some kind almost every night, it is imperative that students keep up with homework assignments which are meant to reinforce and/or extend students learning in class.
- Students should copy down the homework assignment from the board during class.
- Homework will be posted to the HW page of our Green Team Website, this will allow students and parents to view all homework from the team in one location
- Partially Completed HW assignments receive no credit, you may hand in assignments by the next day for half credit.
- Long term assignments and upcoming assessments will be posted to our team website

Honor Code:

"I would prefer even to fail with honor, than to win by cheating"
-Sophocles

- Plagiarism or copying will not be tolerated. You will receive a zero for the assignment/quiz/test if you copy someone else's work, **OR allow them to copy yours.**

Absence Policy

-It is your responsibility to check in with me after absences. I can help you plan how to catch up with the class in a timely manner. Work that is not handed in due to an absence will be entered in aspen as a "0". If a student is absent for an assessment, they must make up the assessment **no later** than my next late night.

-You can also check the team website to keep up with reading assignments and homework assignments during any extended absence. If you are able to complete homework while being absent this will make it much easier to get back on track when you return.

Late Nights

-I will hold late nights on Wednesdays and I encourage you to stay after if you have any questions on the material. Due to my coaching schedule, some late nights may be held on an alternate or additional day, but there will always be at least one per week. Late nights are a great chance to make up the work you may have missed due to absence or to review before a test or quiz.

I am always available to answer questions, and I look forward to a happy and successful year! I check email much more regularly than voicemail, so I encourage you to contact me at robert.doran@norwellschools.org with any questions or concerns. Let's get started!

-Mr. Doran

For your convenience, this contract is also posted in PDF form on my teacher page.

Student Signature _____

Parent/Guardian Signature _____