**7th Grade Social Studies**

*Curriculum Guide and Classroom Procedures*

**Teacher:** Ms. Kimberly Shirk, M. Ed  
**Room:** 610  
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**Website:** http://kshirk.weebly.com

The best and fastest way to contact me is through email 😊

**Teaching Philosophy:** I strive to create a classroom of community of learners where everyone feels respected and challenged to reach their full potential.

**Curriculum:** is based on the Arizona State Social Studies & Common Core Standards:  
http://www.ade.state.az.us/standards/sstudies/articulated/  
The five Social Studies Strands are: American History, World History, Civics/Government, Geography, and Economics.

1st quarter: Pre-Civil War and Civil War  
2nd quarter: Reconstruction and Industrialization  
3rd quarter: Immigration, Progressive Era, Imperialism  
4th quarter: WWI, Great Depression  
All quarters: Research, Economics, Current Events, and Geography

**Website:** PLEASE use it!😊  Weekly lesson plans with notes, powerpoints, and pdf files are available. Upcoming Test Dates are posted (I do not send email notifications to parents regarding test dates.) It is expected that students will be aware of test days themselves and will study accordingly. **If you are absent this is a must for you to access!** Electronic textbook, Syllabus, Exploratory class and more are also posted. http://kshirk.weebly.com

**Textbook:** The textbook we use is Creating America. It is available online through a link on my website. Each child will set up an account the first week of school. Hard copy textbooks will be available from me as a check-out. Most of the Social Studies curriculum is presented via teacher-created PowerPoints, primary source documents, and notes.
Standards-Based Grading Procedures: (See also Middle School Handbook)

90% Formative and Summative Assessments: This includes standard tests and quizzes as well as alternative assessments such as projects. Some tests will be given through the computer program ASPIRE/Horizon. This allows the students to see immediate results of the test and opportunity for reflection.

10% ISN/Homework: This includes written work assigned in class. Most SS assignments are completed during class time. An Interactive Student Notebook or ISN will also be used this year and graded once a quarter. Homework may include classwork assignments not completed during class time as well as reinforcement or enrichment assignments. Frequency of homework varies depending on the unit of study. Other activities include: foldables, maps, timelines, research papers, web-quests, and projects. I do not accept late work for a grade! If there are extenuating circumstances, please see Ms. Shirk.

PowerSchool: Your grades are updated weekly on PowerSchool.
https://ps.dvusd.org/public/home.html
To save paper, I do not send home written progress reports. A student may print out his/her grades if a computer is not available at home with teacher permission.

Citizenship Grade: This grade is administered as E, S, I, N, U on the report card. It will reflect the students’ attitude, level of learning, enthusiasm, responsibility, and participation in learning. For example, excessive amount of late assignments may result in an “N” grade (Needs Improvement). A grade of “N” or “U” does not impact the Principal’s List or Honor Roll awards.
Social Studies Supplies*

Please come prepared for class everyday with the following supplies. Please see Ms. Shirk if you have difficulty with getting any of them.

~1 five subject notebook (For ISN)
~Gluesticks
~Loose-leaf paper for handing in assignments. NO spiral paper please.
~A pocket folder
~Colored pencils with sharpener
~White board markers
~highlighter
~Blue or black pens
~Pencils

*Arizona law requires that public schools provide supplies required for academic success. This list represents optional, supplementary items which you may supply, at your discretion. If you have questions, feel free to contact the school.
**Class Procedures:**

It is essential that you come to class PREPARED. This includes: your ISN, pencil, pen, gluestick, colored pencils and positive attitude.

**Direct Instruction:** Please listen carefully to your teacher to ensure your learning. Please do not be a distraction to those around you. If you have a question concerning the topic of learning, please raise your hand to ask the teacher. Most of the instruction is given through powerpoints and other resources. Interactive Student Notebooks are used daily/weekly to process the information.

**Classwork:** This is the time to complete your ISN or other class assignments. Please wait for the teacher to dismiss you from class. Do not pack up your backpack early. Every minute of class time is important!

**Absent Procedures:** (See also Middle School Handbook)
If a student is absent, he/she is responsible for obtaining all notes, assignments, and assessments. They should be completed in a timely manner. Please check the website for information that you missed. MOST of your questions can be answered from the website. Please use it. Students will need to make arrangements with the teacher to make up any missed assessments.

**Classroom Rules: “Love and Logic”** (See also Middle School Handbook)
- You may engage in any behavior which does not create a problem for you or anyone else in the world.
- If you find yourself with a problem, you may solve it by any means which does not cause a problem for anyone else in the world.
- You may engage in any behavior that does not jeopardize the safety or learning of yourself or others. Unkind words and actions will not be tolerated.
- It may be evident that the student needs assistance in solving his/her problem. The teacher will guide the student into finding the best solution. There is also a “time-out” zone in the back of the room.
- I always listen to students’ arguments at 3:30 P.M., please make an appointment😊

**Table Rules:**
Be respectful of your table mates and their property.
Be respectful of table supplies, put them back in their proper place.
Do not write on textbooks or the table.
Take careful notes.
Cooperate in table discussion.
Ask questions when needed.
Please sign and return to Ms. Shirk by August 16th, 2013.

Student name________________________________________class hour____

I have read the Social Studies Curriculum Guide and Procedures for 2013-2014

Parent/Guardian signature____________________________________________

Parent/Guardian email(s)
NAME________________________________EMAIL________________________________

NAME________________________________EMAIL________________________________

Parent/Guardian phone(s)
NAME________________________________PHONE________________________________

NAME________________________________PHONE________________________________

Please add any information that you want Ms. Shirk to be aware of that may assist her in teaching your student.