

Mrs. Amy (W)ruk
6th Grade Social Studies
2015-2016
amys@wcsd.org

"If you don't know history, then you don't know anything.
You are a leaf that doesn't know it is part of a tree."
Michael Crichton

Welcome to sixth grade social studies! I hope you are ready for a year of fun and exploration. I am SO happy to have YOU as a student. This year, you will work collaboratively with peers to become aware of our world, explore world religions and ancient civilizations, and to discover why they are so important to us and how these civilizations directly impacted the way humans live today.

Mrs. Amy's Expectations:

Let me begin by saying this: I believe in each and every one of you. I do! I will do as much as I can to help you be successful. While I will let you have a hand in creating rules for your class, I do have some expectations that will help you and I make this class a GREAT one!

- Read the supply board outside of the door each day before coming to class. It will ensure that you bring everything you need to class that day. The more prepared you are to learn, the more you will learn! **At the very least, you should ALWAYS have a writing utensil, your homework (if assigned), and a separate folder or binder for your social studies materials.**
- I have high expectations for your work ethic (your perseverance and how hard you work) and work quality (how much care and effort to detail you put into your learning). Just as I come to Heritage Middle School every day to teach and do my job, you come every day to learn - that is your job! Try your best to present work of the best quality you can. After all, who wants to be evaluated on something they don't try to do well? ☺
- While I do not necessarily give a lot of homework in my class, please understand that homework is part of the learning process. I do not assign "busywork" - each assignment has a purpose and will give you an opportunity to practice or review what we are or will be learning in class, apply it to real life, or prove what you know. I expect that homework assignments will be completed on time, and you can expect me to clearly post homework assignments on the whiteboard at the front of the room.
- Cell phones, tablets/iPads, headphones, etc. can be used in class when I deem appropriate and grant you permission. There will be certain times I will let you use your electronic device in class for music, research, or reference. In those cases, I will try to give you a "heads up" ahead of time. Sometimes, I will play music during independent work or class work times, and I try to pick interesting or inspiring tunes to listen to softly while we work. If you prove as a class that we can listen to music and be productive and still learn, there will be times I will let you bring your own headphones to listen to music in class, but please know that that is a privilege that will not happen all too often!
- All classroom supplies (anything you did not bring to this room yourself) **MUST** be returned. Theft is unacceptable. I would not go into your locker and steal your items, so please have the same respect

for mine. Do not break pencils in half, write on the desks, etc. You are seventh graders now - you know the deal! ☺ Plus, at HMS, we show PRIDE!

- I am not your locker (and I sure hope I don't look like one! ☺), so please do not leave your belongings in my room unless you have my permission. I have my own belongings to keep track of, and I am not responsible for your things. This also means that even if you have language arts class right after lunch, you cannot just leave your things here.
- Swearing is NEVER acceptable in my classroom - neither are insults! We all learn better in an environment that fosters respect, collaboration, and patience. EVERYONE is welcome here, and EVERYONE belongs!
- Listen to directions and follow them the best that you can every day. Have you ever had a conversation with someone and had to repeat yourself several times? Not fun, right? I promise to try and make directions as clear and brief as possible, and I will have them in writing for you often.

Thank you in advance for keeping these expectations in mind. You will learn quickly that I care very much about each and every one of you as people and as students, and that is why I have these expectations in place!

Contacting Mrs. Amy

EMAIL: amys@wcsoh.org

Email is absolutely the best way to get a hold of me! I have recently changed my name (I got married!), so my email still uses my maiden name, "Amy". If/when it changes, I will be sure to notify you immediately!

PHONE: After school, for homework questions (until 8:00 PM): **614-859-4440**

This phone number is a voicemail system, meaning I will not answer, but you will be able to leave a message and I will return your call as soon as possible. If you have a question about the homework or something urgent after school, you can call and leave a voicemail message with your name and number, and I will usually get back to you within ten minutes!

CLASS WEBSITE: SCHOOLOGY

We will use Schoology periodically this year for discussions and other activities. If you have a question about assignments, please try one of the other ways to get in touch with me, as I will be faster to respond! ☺

Okay, Miss Amy...what are we studying?!

We will follow Ohio's New Learning Standards for sixth grade Social Studies. According to the Ohio Department of Education, sixth grade Social Studies can be summarized in the following way:

"Regions and People of the Eastern Hemisphere:

In grade six, students study the Eastern Hemisphere (Africa, Asia, Australia and Europe), its geographic features, early history, cultural development and economic change. Students learn about the development of river civilizations in Africa and Asia, including their governments, cultures and economic systems. The geographic focus includes the study of contemporary regional characteristics, the movement of people, products and ideas, and cultural diversity. Students develop their understanding of the role of consumers and the interaction of markets, resources and competition."

We will be busy, busy, busy this year, as you can see in the chart below. The first column states the BIG TOPIC of study, the second states the "subtopic," or what we will study within that big topic, and the third column has the questions about that topic that we will be answering through our fun this year.

BIG TOPIC	Subtopic	Content Statements
History	Historical Thinking and Skills	1. Events can be arranged in order of occurrence using the conventions of B.C. and A.D. or B.C.E. and C.E.
	Early Civilizations	2. Early civilizations (India, Egypt, China and Mesopotamia) with unique governments, economic systems, social structures, religions, technologies and agricultural practices and products flourished as a result of favorable geographic characteristics. The cultural practices and products of these early civilizations can be used to help understand the Eastern Hemisphere today
Geography	Spatial Thinking and Skills	3. Globes and other geographic tools can be used to gather, process and report information about people, places and environments. Cartographers decide which information to include and how it is displayed. 4. Latitude and longitude can be used to identify absolute location.
	Places and Regions	5. Regions can be determined, classified and compared using various criteria (e.g., landform, climate, population, cultural, or economic).
	Human Systems	6. Variations among physical environments within the Eastern Hemisphere influence human activities. Human activities also alter the physical environment. 7. Political, environmental, social and economic factors cause people, products and ideas to move from place to place in the Eastern Hemisphere in the past and today. 8. Modern cultural practices and products show the influence of tradition and diffusion, including the impact of major world religions (Buddhism, Christianity, Hinduism, Islam and Judaism).
Government	Civic Participation & Skills	9. Different perspectives on a topic can be obtained from a variety of historic and contemporary sources. Sources can be examined for accuracy
	Roles & Systems of Government	10. Governments can be categorized as monarchies, theocracies, dictatorships or democracies, but categories may overlap and labels may

		not accurately represent how governments function. The extent of citizens' liberties and responsibilities varies according to limits on governmental authority.
Economics	Economic Decision Making & Skills	<p>11. Economists compare data sets to draw conclusions about relationships among them.</p> <p>12. The choices people make have both present and future consequences. The evaluation of choices is relative and may differ across individuals and societies.</p>
	Scarcity	<p>13. The fundamental questions of economics include what to produce, how to produce and for whom to produce.</p> <p>14. When regions and/or countries specialize, global trade occurs.</p>
	Markets	15. The interaction of supply and demand, influenced by competition, helps to determine price in a market. This interaction also determines the quantities of outputs produced and the quantities of inputs (human resources, natural resources and capital) used.
	Financial Literacy	16. When selecting items to buy, individuals can compare the price and quality of available goods and services.

Mrs. Amy
6th Grade Social Studies
Student and Parent/Guardian Signature Page

Please read the syllabus and sign on the line. By signing, you are agreeing that you have read the syllabus and are aware of the expectations for seventh grade social studies with Miss Amy.

Sign and return by MONDAY, AUGUST 24, 2015

Student Signature:

I, _____(print your name) acknowledge that I have read the course syllabus and agree to follow expectations to the best of my ability during the 2014-2015 school year.

Signature: _____

Parent Signature:

I acknowledge that I have read/reviewed the course syllabus and understand the expectations for my child in social studies this year.

Signature: _____

Please do not hesitate to e-mail me at any time! I look forward to being a partner with you in your child's literacy journey!

Thank you so much! ☺

Students:

Please complete the technology survey on the next page. It is helpful to me in planning for class to know what technology you do or do not have outside of school. This information will be completely private - I will not share it with your classmates!

Please respond to the following statements by circling "Y" for YES or "N" for NO. Use the box provided under each statement to explain anything you think you need to. PLEASE NOTE: NONE of the devices in question are necessary for success in language arts. If you do not have technology at home, please know that I will provide as many opportunities with computers as possible here at school! ☺

I have a computer at home with internet access.

Y

N

I have a computer at home that I can type essays and assignments with.

Y

N

I have a handheld electronic device with wireless internet access. (iPad, tablet, iPod)

Y

N

I have a cellphone.

Y

N

My cellphone has internet access.

Y

N

I bring my cellphone to school every day.

Y

N

I have an Instagram account and can follow Mrs. Amy's account for homework help and reminders.

Y

N

I have a working printer at home.

Y

N

Thank you! ☺