

Norms and Expectations

What to Bring to Class:

Come to class prepared. Bring a pen or a pencil, your notebook, the appropriate textbook, and an outside reading book everyday unless I tell you otherwise. Each day you are not ready for class you will lose participation points.

Norms:

- 1. *Take your seat.*** Stay in your seat during the class period.
- 2. *Raise your hands and remain quiet.*** Stay focused.
- 3. *I expect each student to be courteous and respectful to others.*** Remember, respect is a two way street and it must be earned.
- 4. *Work on assigned tasks either as an individual assignment or in one of our many group projects.*** Many classes, both Language Arts and Social Studies, will have a lecture, some will have worksheets, and others will have a learning project.
- 5. *When the bell rings push in your chairs, and police your area.***
- 6. *Do not write on your desktop, the walls, chairs, or computers.***

First of all, English will begin with 10 minutes of silent reading with our AR books. Those without their outside reading book will lose participation points for not being prepared. Reading and taking the self quizzes are very important as it has such a large impact on your grade. (See grading scale below) The first semester of this year we will also spend a considerable amount of time becoming better writers while composing "fun papers" and writing letters. Since reading comprehension is a large portion of the end-of-the-year MAP, we will also devote a lot of time to Literature. Our work with this subject area will compose of much of the second semester.

This year Social Studies will be a mixture of some lecture/note taking, projects, and

worksheets. Each one of these methods has merit in how and what we learn. As a student in my classroom you should expect to see each method used throughout the chapters as we go along. Bellwork will be held at the beginning of each class.

Assignments are usually due the following class period. Late work WILL NOT be accepted unless of an illness or other excused absence.

Grading:

Grading in English is set up on a 60/20/20 scale. 60% of your overall grade is what you receive on daily homework assignments. (200 points for the Accelerated Reader program is included in your English homework grade each quarter.) 20% of your grade is based on test scores, and the remaining 20% is class participation.

The Social Studies grading system is on a 45/35/20 scale for this class. 45% of your grade is class work. Here you prove your ability and level of knowledge gained. Tests make up 35% of the overall grade. The other 20% is participation.

One way these grades can be reduced is by not being prepared for class.

Tutoring

Tutoring will be expected for those who are struggling with completing homework, struggling with homework scores, or for those who do not pass a chapter test. The purpose of tutoring is not to punish the student, but rather, to help them improve their class grade.

Cell Phones

Cell phones, ipods, etc. are not permitted in my classroom. Violators of this policy can expect a confiscation, loss of participation points, reported to the principal, and a detention.

Gum & Candy

Gum, candy, food, and drinks are all prohibited from my classroom. People breaking this rule will lose participation points, and can expect a detention.