



Hedrick Middle School

Grade 7 Social Studies

2017 - 2018

Mr. Johnson – Team 7-3

koeby.johnson@medford.k12.or.us



Welcome to Social Studies!

In seventh grade, our studies will examine multiple millennia of history, vastly varied cultures, revolutions in economic and political practices, and the geography of extremely different regions of our planet! Put simply, we will learn about interesting people, their ways of life, and what they contributed to the world, and along the way we will learn more about who we are and where we fit into the whole picture!

Major Units of Study:

- Ancient Greece and Persia
- Ancient India
- Ancient Rome, Judaism, and Christianity
- Ancient and Medieval Africa
- The Byzantine Empire and the Rise of Islam
- The Middle Ages Around the World
- The European Renaissance, Reformation, and Age of Exploration

Integrated throughout these units will be a study of world geography, current events, economics, social science analysis, non-fiction literacy, historical literature, government and civics.

Grading

I use a proficiency-based approach in communicating how well a child is doing in class. Students' skills and knowledge in social studies are measured in six categories:

- Historical Knowledge
- Historical Thinking
- Geography
- Civics and Government
- Economics and Financial Literacy
- Social Science Analysis

Students will do practice work and then be assessed in these categories as we learn about the content in each of our main units. Assessments are built from Oregon's standards-based learning targets for the social sciences. It is important that each student understands how close he/she is to becoming Proficient in each skill. My grades for assessments are as follows:

Mastery: the traditional A. Through extensive evidence, the student demonstrates superior academic performance, an in-depth understanding of the standard, and an ability to apply knowledge and strategies to complex problems.

Advanced: the traditional B. The student consistently meets and sometimes exceeds the basic level and demonstrates a complete understanding of the standard.

Meets (Proficiency): the traditional C. The student generally meets the standard and demonstrates a basic knowledge of essential skills; some errors may be present, but the strengths are dominant.

Approaching: the traditional D. Though the student is occasionally demonstrating a working knowledge of the essential skills that encompass the standard, there are still more weaknesses than strengths.

Beginning: the traditional F. No understanding or skill is demonstrated yet.

I do my best to help your child understand what they know and what they still need to know, and then to help them meet or exceed these learning targets. Students who do not show proficiency (Meets, Advanced, or Mastery) on an assessment at first need to keep trying! This means going back to the practice material, re-reading, studying, asking questions, and strengthening your understanding of the material – then retaking the assessment. *Retakes are not only allowed, they are expected in my class!*

As the year progresses, it will be very important to communicate with me if you have questions or concerns. Please contact me:

(541) 842-1567 koeby.johnson@medford.k12.or.us

I also maintain a classroom website that we will be using all year. It contains important information on ASSIGNMENTS, FIELD TRIPS, RESOURCES and more... Please bookmark this site on your home computer! <http://johnsonsocialstudies.weebly.com/>

The Essential Skills for the Oregon Diploma

In order to earn a diploma from high school in Oregon, students will need to demonstrate proficiency with the following “Essential Skills”. It is very important that you develop these skills now: practice doesn’t always make perfect, but it sure helps! Expect to work on these skills in social studies all year:

1. *Read and comprehend a variety of text*
2. *Write clearly and accurately*
3. *Apply mathematics in a variety of settings*
4. *Listen actively and speak clearly and coherently*
5. *Think critically and analytically*
6. *Use technology to learn, live, and work*
7. *Demonstrate civic and community engagement*
8. *Demonstrate global literacy*
9. *Demonstrate personal management and teamwork skills*

Classroom Expectations

- Be kind and respectful to each other
- Take care of classroom materials and environment
- Come prepared, organized, and on time for class

Procedures in Room 202

- As students enter the classroom, they should take out their planners and write homework/classwork for the day’s class in their planners.
- Students should be quietly seated and ready to work when bell rings.
- When a student or the teacher is speaking, eyes should be on her/him, with no side conversations.
- Students must use hall passes when leaving the classroom.
- Tardy students need an excused note from the office or teacher who held them late.
- Students are responsible for finding out what they missed when absent by checking the ABSENTEE HOMEWORK BINDER or the ASSIGNMENTS section of our class website for missed work.

Having spent time living and traveling in Africa, Asia, Europe, and Central America, I speak from personal experience: the right to a good education is not enjoyed equally by all children around the world. Please treat this year as a wonderful opportunity to grow and learn, and do your best!

Thank you,

Koeby Johnson

My child, _____, and I have read this syllabus, and I will do my best to help my child fulfill the expectations of the class.

_____ print parent/guardian

_____ signature parent/guardian

_____ date