

Name: _____

Date: _____

Class Period: _____

Welcome to Social Studies 8
Syllabus 2025-26
Ms. Pasternak & Mr. Allocca - Room C102

Course Description:

The 8th-grade Social Studies curriculum is designed to meet the New Jersey Student Learning Standards for Social Studies and to provide students with knowledge, skills, and values essential to understanding world history. Students will focus on each part of the world and develop an ability to recognize characteristics distinguishing regions of the **Mediterranean, Europe, Africa, and Asia**. This course will focus on the **geography, economies, political systems, religious institutions, cultural achievements, technological advancements, and social relations** amongst various civilizations including; Classical **Civilizations of the Mediterranean and empires in Asia, Africa, and Europe during the Middle Ages**. The course will also focus on incorporating literacy strategies while learning the content. Students will improve their deep reading of informational text and their compositional skills through Document-Based Questions and Free Response Questions. Close analysis of primary, secondary, and independent inquiry documents will be a focus. Writing assignments are related to content studied in class and through independent student research. The New Jersey Student Learning Standards in Social Studies 8 will frame the outcomes of this course.

8th Grade Social Studies Curriculum and Pacing Guide:

Unit #	Title of Units	Duration:
1	Ancient Greece	40 Days
2	The Roman World	40 Days
3	Muslim Civilizations and African Empires	25 Days
4	Medieval Europe	50 Days
5	Expanding Exchanges and Encounters: Civilizations in Far East and Southeast Asia	25 Days

Materials/Resources Needed:

- School-issued Chromebook and charger.
- A three-ring binder.
- Folder.
- Pencils/pens.
- *Optional: Headphones*

Classroom Expectations:

Students are expected to be on time to class, proceed quietly to their seats, and complete a warm-up activity each day. During class, students must follow directions and complete assignments in a timely manner. At the end of class, students will not line up at the door early. Students will wait for the bell or for Ms. Pasternak/Mr. Allocca to dismiss them. In addition, students are expected to display respectable behavior at all times. Misbehavior that disrupts the learning environment of the classroom is not permitted. Also, swearing, ridiculing, teasing, discriminating, bullying, or putting anyone down will not be tolerated. Always show respect and kindness to your classmates and teachers, take ownership of your education, and come to class ready to give your best effort every day.

SmartPass:

SmartPass must be used when leaving the classroom for any reason. To create a SmartPass, use your Chromebook. If you do not have your Chromebook, you must inform Ms. Pasternak/Mr. Allocca and wait for them to make a pass for you. Purposely leaving the classroom without creating a SmartPass is considered "failure to follow proper procedure," and if it becomes a consistent issue, disciplinary measures will be taken.

Cell Phones:

Cell phones and/or AirPods are not permitted to be out or used during class. Cell phones must be silenced and put away. They should not be on your desk, on your lap, or visible in any way. The JHS school discipline policy will be enforced for any cell phone violations.

Google Classroom:

Google Classroom will be actively used in our class for assignments, class materials, and announcements. It will serve as a hub where you can submit your work, receive feedback, and keep track of deadlines. Invitations to Google Classroom have already been sent out. Log in to your Google Classroom to accept the class invite. If you did not receive the invite for some reason, check below for your class period and class code:

- Period 1: Izodyjvw
- Period 2: 4wkudqax
- Period 3: 3rdiyaa
- Period 5/6: h4unkfto
- Period 7: bpe3cy3z

Grading:

All graded classwork and assessments will be recorded in Oncourse in a timely manner. Check **OnCourse** frequently for grades in order to keep track of your own progress. The grade book is set up into the following categories for each marking period:

<u>Marking Period 1</u>	<u>Marking Period 2</u>	<u>Marking Period 3</u>	<u>Marking Period 4</u>
20% Practice (Classwork/homework)	20% Practice (Classwork/homework)	20% Practice (Classwork/homework)	20% Practice (Classwork/homework)
80% Assessments (Tests, projects, essays)	60% Assessments (Tests, projects, essays)	80% Assessments (Tests, projects, essays)	60% Assessments (Tests, projects, essays)
	20% Midterm		20% Final

Late Work:

All assignments are expected to be submitted on the day they are due. Late assignments will be accepted up to one week after their initial due dates with a deduction of 5 points per day.

** As per student's IEP/504 Plan, late assignments will be accepted without penalty. Test retakes and/or revisions will only be provided as per students' IEP or 504 Plan accommodations.*

Academic Dishonesty:

As an academic institution of merit and integrity, Pinelands Regional School District affirms its commitment to the honesty and excellence of all academic work conducted by our students. Academic dishonesty is a serious violation and is subject to consequences. Academic dishonesty may be manifested in a number of irregularities including, but not limited to, plagiarism and dishonest conduct in the completion of coursework. Examples of dishonest conduct include, but are not limited to: cheating, attempted cheating, plagiarism, forgery, and the unauthorized use of artificial intelligence (AI) tools. The use of AI to generate or complete work without permission or proper credit will be considered plagiarism. The consequences of academic dishonesty are outlined in the Pinelands [student handbook](#).

Absences:

If you are absent from class, it is your responsibility to make up classwork and other assignments in a timely manner so that you do not fall behind. Ms. Pasternak and Mr. Allocca will discuss extensions with students individually and make arrangements for new assignment deadlines due to absences. Be sure to follow the adjusted deadlines to avoid assignments being marked as a zero.

Additionally, if you are absent, you can check the "Daily Assignment Calendar" on Google Classroom for the assignment(s) you missed. On the calendar, you will find the linked assignment(s), and directions will be found within the assignment. If you would like, you can complete the assignments digitally at home so you do not fall behind.

Contact information:

Ms. Kristin Pasternak Social Studies 8 Pinelands Regional Junior High School: Room C102 Staff Website Link Email: kpasternak@prsdnj.org	Mr. Anthony Allocca Social Studies 8 Pinelands Regional Junior High School: Room C102 Staff Website Link Email: aallocca@prsdnj.org
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Syllabus Sign Off

Please return by Wednesday, September 10th

Homework: With a parent/guardian, read the syllabus for this year, then sign the portion below.

I, _____, have read the class syllabus for Social Studies and
Please print your first and last name

and understand the rules, procedures, and expectations for this year.

Student Signature

Parent/Guardian Signature