

Middle School Social Studies Grades 7-8

Kevin T. White - TLC Academy

kwhite@learningchoice.org - (858) 536-8388 Ext: 145

Course Description: Social Studies, by and large, has become the most deemphasized core content subject and has usually been attended with the least amount of enthusiasm by students. I intend to change that. Too often, students read a section or chapter of text and remember the content just long enough to pass the test. Shortly thereafter, the content is lost, forgotten, or “deleted,” as though it were some insignificant meaningless piece of information, unrelated to the lives of students and the present. This course has been developed with the intention of connecting the content to the students, the present day, and the world around us. Concurrently, as students are developing an understanding of our history, they will be enhancing a variety of imperative life-long learning skills, communication practices, tech experience and presentation abilities. As students are challenged through various modalities of learning on a daily basis, at home and in the classroom, they will gain the necessary skills, knowledge and discipline to prepare them for high school, future social science courses and 21st century citizenship.

Methods of Study: Students are expected to work in an often collaborative educational environment while in class. Projects will require high levels of communication, delegation of responsibilities, and leadership in addition to a keen understanding of history. In most cases, independent coursework will be assigned weekly, text based readings and online sources as well as videos will dovetail with the courses big questions, themes and topics we are learning throughout each unit. Projects, written publications and multimedia allow for creative opportunities to apply what students learn, while also functioning as assessments. Assignments will generally be comprised of a text-based reading, research templates, visual analysis, claims testing, flipped video responses, investigations, digital discussions, all relating to what students have studied or may soon be studying as related to course themes, units and big questions.

Text Curriculum: [McGraw-Hill "Networks" Curriculum](#)

Grades 6 and 7 - *Discovering Our Past: A History of the World Early Ages*

Grade 8 - *Discovering Our Past: A History of the United States*

Plan for at least 2-3 hours per week of digital coursework for students. A digital calendar that is updated weekly will be posted via Google Classroom with assignments and due dates. **Grades will not be posted in Google Classroom!** Access to the internet and a networkable device is imperative to student success. Grades are being streamlined to School Pathways (ask your EP for account info). Parents can access grades anywhere they are networked. Before contacting me regarding grades, please use this online resource to view assignments.

Classroom rules can fall under the umbrella just two class rules. Students are expected to...

Be Respectful and Have Integrity! Respect each other, your teachers, adults on campus, school property, computers and all resources as though they were your family or your family's own property! When things break or become damaged, that means we lose money for fun projects. Have integrity and do what you say you are going to do. Follow through!

- **Use Academic Communication:** This means no side conversations, gossiping, story telling or whining! If a student has a problem, address it as best as you can within your group and then let your teacher know if the problem requires mediation or supervision.
- **Use Academic Participation:** While working with others, you are expected to participate as completely as possible. You will be evaluated based on how you participate, share responsibilities and produce a finished product together that is presentable, functional and / or demonstrates what has been learned.

Utilize Each Other and Be Resourceful: While students are learning new skills, challenges and problems with programs, procedures and technology will arise! Ask partners and classmates (post in Google Classroom from home) before asking the teacher. You must learn to utilize one another for help, guidance and assistance. Remember, if you get lost or frustrated with technology, there is always Google and YouTube to help you when you get stuck!

Print Student First and Last Name _____

Student Signature _____ Date _____

Parent Signature _____ Date _____