

Dear Parent or Guardian,

I want to take this opportunity to introduce myself and express my excitement about working with your child this year. I love teaching Social Studies because I have a deep understanding and passion for history, culture, politics, geography, and current events. I care about each of my students and believe students can grow and develop by examining the issues we cover in class. The main goal of the course is to understand the history and development of North Carolina in the context of the United States of America. Students will also focus on geography, politics, economic and environmental literacy as part of the North Carolina Essential Standards. We are also placing a greater emphasis on global awareness and students impact and role in our ever changing world.

**Classroom Goal**

I believe all students have the ability to shape their own lives and society in positive ways. My goal this year is to have all students recognize their power and use that power to improve themselves and their communities. We will use the NC Essential Standards and Common Core Curriculum to inform students' vision and to increase their ability to make that vision a reality. In order to achieve this goal, we will need supplies, organization and procedures. These are outlined below.

Social Studies will be following the school wide one binder organizational program.

**Overall the goal this year will to devote as much time and energy utilizing digital technology. The need for a lot of traditional materials will not be necessary for the majority of the school year.**

**Rules**

All Culbreth Middle School and Chapel Hill/Carrboro rules will apply in our classroom. Students are also asked to

- \* Show respect (to other people, the class environment and yourself).
- \* Do your best (which requires believing in yourself, being prepared and always trying as hard as you can).
- \* Sit with your assigned group and start on your daily warm-up.
- \* Proper use of I pod Touch and assigned laptop computer according to Culbreth use agreement.
- \* No book bags, food, candy or drinks allowed in the classroom. Clear plain water is permitted.

**Consequences**

- \*Correction of behavior
- \*Student meeting Mr. Giblin and phone call home
- \*Lunch detention with Mr. Giblin and phone call home
- \*Office referral
- \*Loss of certain classroom privileges

## **Procedures**

1. Retrieve your class assigned i pod touch from the cart.
2. Start and complete digital warm-up from the class site.
3. Place completed homework on your desk if there is homework due that day.

### *During class:*

1. Do not sharpen a pencil while a class discussion is in progress. You can get sharpened pencils by the sharpener.
2. Please raise your hand if you have a question or would like to participate in a class discussion.

### *Bathroom/water/nurse/locker policy:*

1. Please do not ask to leave class unless there is an emergency. Anyone who consistently asks to leave will need to schedule an individual conference with the teacher.
2. No one will be excused during the first or last 15 minutes of class or during certain activities.
3. You will not be allowed to go to your locker once class has begun. Class is less than forty-eight minutes long and because of this fact students should use bathroom breaks conservatively.

### *At the end of class:*

1. Pack up your belongings only after you have been asked to do so. Also return your class assigned i pod touch or computer.
2. Clean the area around your desk before you leave.
3. Remain in your seat until the final bell has sounded signaling that the school day is over.

## **Policies**

### **Homework**

- \* I will check all homework right after the class has finished their daily warm-up. All work must be on your desk by that time.
- \* I will come by your desk once. If your homework is not on your desk at that time, it will be marked late.

### **Late Work**

- \* Once we have reviewed , late work will be accepted with a large penalty. Most homework assignments students will be given multiple days to complete.
- \* I will accept late large assignments (projects, research papers, etc.) for one week after the due date. Students lose a minimum of 5 points for each day the assignment is late.
- \* Students will not be allowed to turn in bulk work at the end of the term.

### **Lateness**

Please be seated and ready to begin at the appropriate time. If you are late, the school lateness policy will apply:

1. 1st lateness—warning
2. 2nd lateness—meeting with Mr. Giblin and phone call home
3. 3<sup>rd</sup> lateness—lunch detention with Mr. Giblin and phone call home
4. 4th lateness—office referral

## **Absences**

\* With an excused absence, you need to make up missed work for full credit. Missed tests must be made up within one week. **If students do not come see teacher and make up work their grades will suffer.**

\* Make-up work will be addressed outside of class (preferably at lunch, before or after school).

\* After they have been used in class, copies of all handouts will be placed at the class site. If you are absent, check this area for missed work. Again check the class website for missing work and directions and what occurred while absent.

\* Students who are routinely absent from class and do not meet with the teacher will have a very difficult time being successful in the classroom.

## **Classroom Culture**

We will work hard to have a positive classroom culture, and to celebrate that culture in many ways (positive phone calls, increased privileges, etc.). In instances where that culture is disrupted, consequences will include teacher detentions, parent/guardian contacts and administrative referrals.

### **Grades:**

Student's grades will be based on a point system where certain classroom assignments, homework, tests, projects and other course material will be given a certain weight. Tests and projects will be given a greater weight than homework. Below is an example of how I will weigh a test versus a homework assignment.

Test - **30 pts** vs. Homework - **2 pts**

Projects - **40 pts** vs. Daily warm-ups - **5 pts**

\* Progress reports will be sent out according to the school calendar.

## **Promises to students**

1. If you ever feel I am doing a poor job of living up to these promises, please schedule an individual conference with me. I work very hard to make sure that I am true to my word.
2. I will always believe in your ability to succeed. This means my expectations are extremely high. I will demand your best at all times.
3. I will listen to you. I ask that you bring questions, concerns or comments to me in a calm, respectful manner at the appropriate time. Individual concerns should be addressed in individual conferences that can be arranged by seeing me before or after class.
4. I will respect you, and I will insist that others respect you in our class. Please let me know, in an individual conference, if you ever feel disrespected.
5. I will never assign work unless I can explain why it is important. I do not believe in busy work.
6. I will work hard and happily. I took this job because I love teaching, I love history and I love my students.
7. I will learn from you. You are intelligent people, and each of you brings experiences and perspectives to the class that will benefit the group. Please share your viewpoint every day!

