"Somewhere, something incredible is waiting to be known." - Carl Sagan

Welcome to what I hope will be an exciting year full of inquiry and discovery. We will use Language Arts and Social Studies as the launch pad of deeper learning, seeking the "something incredible" that is "waiting to be known." I look forward to this school year!

-Ms. Connolly-Shanley ELA/SS 801 & 701

Instructional Goals

ELA: Students will gain exposure to a range of texts and tasks in accordance with the Common Core Learning Standards. They will develop critical thinking skills. Student's writing and speaking will reflect these critical thinking skills. Students will show that they are beyond proficient in grammar and writing mechanics. Students will develop an appreciation for literature.

SS: Students will demonstrate their understanding of events, themes, ideas and people in the history of the United States and New York. They will learn what role the United States plays in the world. They will deepen their understanding of geography and economics. They will demonstrate their understanding of the U.S. Constitution and their role in the United States.

General: Students will develop analytical skills. They will make connections within and among the content areas. Students will be able to apply information to a variety of situations. They will work independently and collaboratively as they strengthen a love for learning.

Required Materials

To successfully complete this course, you will need:

- a section in a binder with loose-leaf (one for ELA and one for SS)
- a folder per subject
- · 1 marble notebooks to be kept in school
- · a library card
- a pen
- · 3x5 index cards
- · USB
- · 1 ream of printer paper
- · An inquisitive mind
- Paper towels
- · a box of tissues
- · Clorox wipes
- · Liquid hand soap

Suggested Materials

- · Markers
- · Highlighters
- · Construction paper

Social Studies Grading Policy

Your grade will be comprised of tests, D.B.Q's, projects, homework and participation.

Tests: you can expect a test approximately every 2 weeks

Projects: you will be expected to complete research projects throughout the year.

Plagiarism will not be tolerated. Plagiarized work will receive a zero and cannot be made up.

Document Based Question (D.B.Q.): you can expect at least 1 D.B.Q. every term.

Homework: Homework will be given almost every night. This includes time to complete projects. Homework and projects handed in late will not receive full credit. It is the student's responsibility to keep track of what work they owe

Participation: Attendance is a big part of your participation grade. If you are not in class, you cannot participate. Participation also includes listening, completing your work, and allowing other students to learn.

ELA Grading Policy

Your grade will be comprised of tests, projects, guided reading, independent reading, book reports, writing, homework and participation.

Tests: you can expect a test approximately every 2 weeks

Projects: you will be expected to complete research projects throughout the year. Plagiarism will not be tolerated. Plagiarized work will receive a zero and cannot be made up.

Independent Reading: we will be reading independently at least once a week. You are expected to read and complete the assignment. You must have your own independent reading book with you every day. You may borrow from the class library only during the designated time. You will also be required to read at home

Book Reports: You will be expected to complete book reports throughout the year. The book reports will be based on reading that you do at home.

Writing: Your writing will range from short answers (1 paragraph) to essays (at least 5 paragraphs) and research projects (at least 3 pages). All of your writing must show evidence of editing.

Homework: Homework will be given almost every night. This includes time to complete projects. Homework and projects handed in late will not receive full credit. It is the student's responsibility to keep track of what work they owe

Participation: Attendance is a big part of your participation grade. If you are not in class, you cannot participate. Participation also includes listening, completing your work, and allowing other students to learn.

General Rules

Rules are needed to ensure a safe and effective educational environment. It is not fair to anyone in the classroom when a student chooses to break the rules. It is the responsibility of all students to behave accordingly. My rules are simple. First, all school rules apply in my classroom (this includes cell phone use). Second, food and/or drink of any kind are not allowed in the room (this keeps the room neat and the bugs out). Finally I ask that students follow the three r's:

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ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

I always give the homework assignments on Monday for the whole week. I will post the homework assignments for the week on the class website. I am available for parent conferences (by appointment only) before school and on Tuesday afternoons. I am not available to call home after school hours. The school day can become very busy, therefore, I respond faster to emails.

CONTACT INFORMATION

RESPECT, RESPONSIBILITY, and RELIABILITY

Ms. Jean Connolly-Shanley	
Social Studies/Language Arts	
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Please return this portion of the sy	llabus to Ms. Connolly Shanley
I of class	have read and understand the syllabus.
 Student's signature	Parent's signature