

William J. Johnston Middle School

Christopher Bennett, Principal
Carla Kennedy, Assistant Principal

Phone: 860-537-2313
Fax: 860-537-6258

Welcome to Social Studies ~

I am very happy to be your child's social studies teacher this year, and hope that you will feel free to contact me regarding our time together in the classroom. Social studies classes have a special opportunity to work with other students across the globe, discovering and learning about the world and other cultures. Over the course of the year, our students will be learning world geography and cultures. We also participate in National Geography Awareness Week and the Geography Bee!

Early in the year, we will be learning about our Chinese sister-school which will allow us to "meet" kids around the world! We also plan to participate in an international online learning forum (called iEARN.org) for global inquiry projects. We have subscribed to an age-appropriate news magazine for all students, so expect a weekly current events assignment. To prepare for the school-wide Geography Bee, I will provide geography questions to help boost your child's knowledge of the globe. There is also class website that I keep to share resources for you and your child (www.betasocialstudies.org), which includes practice quizzes, videos, student work, and other resources to generate family discussion!

Any homework assignments are posted on the board for students to write in their agendas, and are also posted daily on Power School. In addition, we will be using *Google Classroom*, so assignments or tasks may need to be completed online. Projects may be partly in-school and partly completed at home. I will always provide time lines and rubrics for all projects, and you may get electronic versions of the handouts on my website. Student grades are weighted and based on the following formula: *classroom participation (30%), homework (20%), tests & quizzes (20%), and projects (30%)*. Since the grades are weighted and *not* averaged, PowerSchool grades may appear skewed at the start of the term. They will balance out as more grades are added. I expect students to do their very best work in class, and know you will encourage your child to put forth his or her best effort.

Expectations: Students are expected to arrive to class ready to learn and participate. This means that all materials should be brought to class, including writing utensils, agenda, binder, a silent reading book, and other items, as needed. The agenda is especially needed because logins and passwords are written in the back of the agenda for access to our online learning activities. Sometimes a pop "materials check" quiz will be held to make sure students bring all of their materials to class. All work must have student full name and class letter marked on the assignment. We have over 100 students and we cannot resort to handwriting analysis! Work is due by the start of class and will be considered late if a student does not come prepared to go over the assignment. If a student is absent from class for any reason, any handouts are available in the "While You Were Out" file. It is a student's responsibility to check for any missed work.

I am excited to work with your Beta student, and sincerely encourage you to contact me if you have any questions, concerns, or special hobbies you'd like to share with the class. The school telephone number is 860-537-2313 x 200 or you may reach me by email at lkrenicki@colchesterct.org.

Sincerely,

Miss Laura Krenicki