

## Course Syllabus: Mrs. Lavene



**7<sup>th</sup> Grade Social Studies, 2022-2023**

August 9, 2022

Dear Students & Parents,

Welcome to Seventh Grade Social Studies! I hope you had an enjoyable summer with your family. I am looking forward to an exciting ten months of working together. My twenty-six years as an educator have taught me that communication between parents and the classroom teacher can be just as important as the learning process. I will need your support in order to make your child's experience in school successful.

Please voice your concerns to me as soon as they come up. I will be sure to communicate mine with you. I would also like to know of any changes going on at home that might impact your child at school. A parent leaving on a business trip, illness, visiting relatives, and a religious or extracurricular event often affect your child in class. I can best help your child adjust if I know what is going on in their life. The best way to inform me would be by Email. If you need to speak to me in person, please schedule an appointment to see me after school. This way we can address any concerns at hand.

This year we will focus on critical thinking and the inquiry process to challenge students to think outside of the box, problem-solve, and prepare them to be active, global citizens! We will practice how to think like a historian, and it is my hope to build a love and appreciation for history in all my students.

Please review the following information with your child and sign the last page by Wednesday (A day classes) or Thursday (B day classes). I look forward to an engaging and stimulating year!

Warm regards,

Mrs. Sharon Lavene

[slavene@opusd.org](mailto:slavene@opusd.org)

Room G-3

\*\*\*\*\*

## Humanities Curriculum & Class Requirements

**Google Site/Class Website:** This is the general classroom website. Parents and students can both access this site to find class resources. The link to this site can be found on the MCMS website, under my name, or at:

<https://sites.google.com/d/0B3A74FOvFZAAT2tuRmtZSjktRk0/p/0B3A74FOvFZAANF96NF9MT2Q2dzQ/edit?resourcekey=0-ZZpcx2krKaii126pBjGO7g>

**Google Classroom:** This is the “go-to” resource for students. It’s packed with crucial information and helpful resources that will be updated almost daily. Many class assignments will be posted and turned in through Google Classroom.

**Weekly Schedule:** Every week, I will provide a schedule that will be used to guide instruction. It should regularly be accessed by students. This will help students stay organized, have access to important information, and it should be used as a resource when a student misses class. There will never be a reason a student does not know what occurred in class.

**Q System:** The district’s online grade book is a very important resource. Students and parents are encouraged to track a student’s academic scores throughout the year so there are no surprises.. This will allow you to know, at any time, a student’s overall grade, individual assignment grades, as well as any tardies or absences that may have been recorded. Assignments are typically posted weekly depending on the complexity of the task.

**Grading Policy:** Students are responsible for keeping track of their grades and making sure that Q accurately reflects the scores they have received. Students should advocate for themselves and come to me with any discrepancies or questions about their grades.

**Academic Grades:** Grades are based on homework/classwork assignments, tests, quizzes, essays, and projects. Grades are not weighted.

### **Assessment Retakes/Extra Credit:**

- 7th-grade Humanities does not allow for retake assessments (tests ,quizzes, or projects) as a result of a low grade.
- No extra credit will be given in either Humanities subject in 7th grade. All grades are earned.

### Grading Scale:

100% or above	A+	72.5% - 77.4%	C
92.5% - 99.9%	A	69.5% - 72.4%	C-
89.5% - 92.4%	A-	67.5% - 69.4%	D+
87.5% - 89.4%	B+	62.5% - 67.4%	D
82.5% - 87.4%	B	59.5% - 62.4%	D-
79.5% - 82.4%	B-	59.4% or below	F
77.5% - 79.4%	C+		

**Work Habits Grades:** These reflect students' academic performance and responsibilities. The following characteristics are considered:

- Consistently receiving less than 70% on assignments due to poor work habits or lack of effort.
- An overall "D" or "F" grade at the quarter, will automatically result in an "N" or a "U," respectively, in work habits.
- Work is turned in on time and made up in a timely manner when absent.
- Chromebooks, reading books, and other required materials are brought to class daily; students are prepared for class.

**Citizenship Grades:** These reflect students' behavior and participation in the classroom. The following characteristics are considered:

- Respects other students and adults.
- Displays a positive attitude.
- Follows the Medea Creek guidelines, as per the student handbook.
- Frequently participates in class activities and discussions.

O	Outstanding
S	Satisfactory
N	Needs Improvement
U	Unsatisfactory

**NOTE:** Please keep in mind that an "Outstanding" Citizenship and Work Habits grade must be *earned*. Not only are negative behaviors and habits taken into consideration, but so are positive behaviors and overall participation. Thus, an "S" is satisfactory and is the grade students will start each quarter with until they either earn their "O" or their "N"/ "U" grades.

### **Academic Dishonesty:**

- Throughout the year, students will be reminded and taught about what constitutes academic dishonesty, including, but not limited to, plagiarism of assignments, cheating on assessments, copying homework, and using outside resources to obtain information when inappropriate.
- Consequences for any kind of academic dishonesty will be a referral to the Dean, a zero on the assignment, communication home about the incident, and a lowering of the Citizenship grade for that quarter.

**By signing this document, both parent and student are acknowledging these rules and agreeing to abide by them.**

### **Classwork/Homework Expectations:**

- **Homework:** Students are responsible for turning in all work assigned in class. Most homework will be finishing what was started in class or completing assigned reading.
- **Late Work:** 50% of the total points will be taken off any late assignments within one class day of the due date. If turned in after the following class day, the assignment will receive a zero.
  - Projects will lose 10% for each class day that they are late.
  - Essays will lose 10% for each school day that they are late.
- **Work Quality:** The expectation for all work in Humanities is that students proofread for proper grammar, spelling, and mechanics prior to submitting. Assignments will be graded based on the quality of the work in both content and mechanics.

### **Absences:**

- Absent students must make up class work and homework, having the number of days absent plus one to turn in the work.
- When absent, students are required to check Google Classroom and the Weekly Schedule prior to returning to school in order to remain current with assignments.
- Students who are absent at the time they have a group assignment due should make every effort to send that work to members of their group.
  - Teacher will decide, on a case-by-case basis, if the absent student needs to be removed from the group to complete the assignment on their own.
- Students should refrain from emailing the teacher for work unless they have already checked all other resources and have not found it there or still have questions.
- Long-term or ongoing assignments, projects, reading, etc., need to be worked on at home in the case of an absence, if possible, so that the student does not fall behind.
- Credit will NOT be given when work is turned in beyond the given time frame.
- Missed tests/quizzes must be made up within two weeks to avoid a ZERO.

### **Technology in the Classroom:**

- Chromebooks will be used daily in our class. It is imperative that students always have:
  - A working Chromebook
  - A charger
  - A pair of wired earbuds or headphones
- If a student's device is not working properly, the student is responsible for immediately taking the device to the tech personnel on campus and obtaining a loaner.
- **Device Usage:**
  - Students are logged into Google on their school account, not home accounts, at all times while in class.
  - No games or off-task activities during class.
  - Cell phones are off at all times.
  - No wireless earbuds or smart watches can be used during class because they cannot be monitored by the teacher.
- Consequences for misuse of devices include: trash pick-up, lunch detention, email home, and referral to the Dean.
- By signing this document, both parent and student are acknowledging these rules and agreeing to follow them.

### **Behavioral Expectations:**

- **Outdoor Work:** We have the ability to provide students the opportunity to work and collaborate on our outdoor patio area. However, working outside is a privilege, not a right.
  - Students who did not complete the homework that was due that day may not work outside.
  - Students may only sit with people from their class/group.
  - Students must stay on-task and behave or they will lose outdoor privileges.
- **Gum/Eating in Class:** There is absolutely no gum or eating during class time. The consequence for this is trash pick-up.
- **Dress Code:**
  - Any school dress code violations will be sent to the office for further disciplinary action.
  - Hats/hoods must be taken off inside the classroom.
- **Kindness:** Any form of bullying or teasing will not be tolerated. Students who are not being kind and respectful will be sent to the office for disciplinary action.
- **Collaboration:** Students will be working with others frequently throughout the year. All students are expected to exhibit positive behavior by participating and contributing effectively to their group.
- **Dismissal:** The teacher tells the students when it is time to pack up and be dismissed; students **must remain at their desks** until released by the teacher.

**Suggested Classroom Materials:** Below is a list of suggested materials that we use on a daily or weekly basis. Please bring these with you to class every day. If you do not have any of these materials, you may let me know and I will provide them for you to borrow during class time:

<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• District-issued Chromebook</li><li>• Chromebook charger</li><li>• Headphones/earbuds (wired)</li><li>• Glue sticks</li><li>• Highlighters (3 colors)</li><li>• 3x3" Post-It notes</li><li>• 4x6" index cards</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Pencils with erasers</li><li>• Blue or black pens</li><li>• RED pen for correcting</li><li>• Independent Reading Book (Always have one in class)</li><li>• Class novel (when applicable)</li><li>• Binder in which to organize your work</li></ul>
--	--

**Video/DVD Policy:** As per the OPUSD Board Policy on showing films in the classroom, "Materials rated for general audiences ('G') may be shown if and when appropriate to the instructional programs and related to the curriculum adopted for the subject, class and/or grade level. Materials not rated for general audiences may not be shown to grades K-8 without specific administrative approval and informed and signed parental consent."

As part of my course curriculum, I tentatively plan to screen the below films during class time. The specific instructional objectives are as follows:

- Various episodes: *The Twilight Zone* (1959-64)-- connection to themes of tolerance; Holocaust
- *On The Way to School* (2013)-- connection to human rights and SDGs; access to education
- *Akeelah and the Bee* (2006)-- connection to perseverance, kindness, and resilience
- *A Knight's Tale* (2001)-- connection to Medieval Europe
- *Ever After A Cinderella Story* (1998)-- connection to the Renaissance
- *He Named Me Malala* (2015)-- connection to the class novel, *I Am Malala*

We need parent/guardian consent in order for students to view the above films at school. Please sign and return this document to give your permission for your child to watch these films. **If you decline permission for your child to view a film from the above list, please email the teacher** and a suitable alternative learning activity will be provided.

## Parent Homework and Parent/Student Signatures

### **Parent Homework SURVEY: Please complete by SUNDAY, 8/14**

To help me better know your child, please take the time to share some insights with me about your child.

Please visit my [Google Class Site](#).

1. Directly on the Home Page, you will see the "Parent Homework Survey" along with directions.
2. Fill out the Google Form for your child's Social Studies period and submit. Thank you.

### **Parent/Student Signatures**

Please sign the syllabus. This will be kept in your student's binder for future reference. A copy of this syllabus can also be found on my website.

By signing below, both student and parents/guardians acknowledge that they have read and understand all policies outlined in this syllabus.

Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_ (Print)

Student Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

By signing below, both student and parent acknowledge that they have read and understand all policies outlined above:

Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Period: \_\_\_\_\_

Student Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_