

7th Grade Social Studies - 2nd, 4th, and 6th Periods

Teacher: Josh Heard Email: jheard@paparts.org

Google Classroom Codes: 2nd Period - am6qlrrm | 4th Period - a43rorjj | 6th Period - 5r4kx7wi

Classroom Materials

- **1 Pocketed Folder or Three Ring Binder** to keep track of assignments and projects.
- **Pencils and Pens** to complete handwritten assignments.

Course Description

7th Grade Social Studies will help students explore the history of New Mexico, gain skills that will help them become successful in the classroom environment, and develop social skills appropriate to the educational/performing arts environment. This course will also have a “keyboarding” component designed for students to gain proficiency in computer typing skills.

Goals

The main goal of this class is to grow the skills needed to be successful students while we study New Mexico History. A secondary goal is for students to grow their ability to have healthy social interactions and work through challenges. An overlapping goal is to help students find connections between their personal lives and what they are learning in the classroom.

Teaching Style

Students can expect to be introduced to new topics each week, to complete daily classwork assignments to practice/interact with and demonstrate the student’s understanding of the topic, and to apply their new knowledge to creative group and independent projects at regular intervals throughout the school year. Students will also be assessed on their retention of content knowledge with regularly occurring quizzes and tests.

Google Classroom / PowerSchool

My Code to Join: _____

All course materials, assignments, projects, and test will be administered through our Google Classroom page. Grades will be posted to PowerSchool promptly.

Parents/Guardians can help their student by regularly having their child log in to Google Classroom and to navigate through the classwork pages of each class. This will greatly assist in monitoring coursework completion/progress and to regularly check PowerSchool to monitor grades.

Office Hours

I will be available to students during the school day. After the school day ends it is unlikely that I will check email or take work related calls, but I will reply promptly the next school day.

LATE WORK POLICY *(I follow the excused absence policy in the student handbook)*

Late work will be accepted for half-credit up to two weeks after the due date. After two weeks, the grade will be a zero. Student's may request extra time to complete an assignment without penalty on a case-by-case basis, but the student must communicate the need for more time before the due date.

Late work will only be graded after the student has communicated directly with the teacher via email (jheard@paparts.org) to inform the teacher that the assignment has been turned in. The student's email must include the name of the assignment(s) being turned in.

Late work will be graded as quickly as possible, but no later than before the end of the grading period. If a student is concerned that an assignment has not been graded, they are encouraged to send a followup email or to talk to the teacher during the class period.

End of Semester Late Work Policy Change: The two week grace period for turning in late work will change at the end of each semester. Students must have all late work turned in the Friday before Final Exams Week each semester.

CURSING CONSEQUENCE

7th grade students are exploring their use of language, and almost all of them love experimenting with the use of swear words. Because we are working on social awareness, cursing in my class will receive an immediate consequence to encourage students to grow in their awareness of their language and communications choices.

If I hear a student curse, the student will roll a standard d6 die.

- If they roll a 1, 3, or 5, the student will receive a homework assignment and an email will be sent home to parents.
- If they roll a 2, the student will write an apology letter and read it to class. An email will be sent home to parents.
- If they roll a 4 or 6, an email will be sent home to parents.

Students who receive a cursing consequence assignment will have 1 week to turn in the assignment. Students who fail to complete a cursing consequence assignment will receive 2 days of lunch detention and parents will be informed.

Course Outline

Students will use the "Week at a Glance" posting on the Classwork page to orient themselves to our workload. **I will also send out an email to parents called "Week in Review" which will inform the parent about what we accomplished during the week and any relevant assignments/projects/assessments.**

The outline below is subject to change based on the pace of learning and needs of the class.

FALL SEMESTER OUTLINE

August - Building classroom routines and expectations; review and practice using digital tools (Google Classroom, Email, Google Suite, UDL extensions, etc.)

September - Learning how to interact with a Textbook; note-taking strategies and practice; Geography: Tour of New Mexico

October - Geography of New Mexico (continued); Early Indigenous History

November - Early Indigenous History (continued); European Explorers and Colonies

December - European Explorers and Colonies (continued); Fall Semester Final Exam

SPRING SEMESTER OUTLINE

January - European Explorers and Colonies (continued)

February - New Mexico in the 1800s

March - New Mexico in the 1800s (continued); New Mexico in the 1900s

April - New Mexico in the 1900s (continued)

May - Review; Spring Semester Final Exam

Grading

PowerSchool Grades

Expect PowerSchool grades to be updated no later than 2 weeks from the assignments due date.

Zeros Used to Identify Late Work in PowerSchool

The teacher will enter 0s into PowerSchool for assignments that are late. Parents and students are encouraged to build a habit of regularly checking PowerSchool to identify late work. Zeros become permanent 3 weeks after the assignment's due date.

Points System Grading

The grades you see in PowerSchool show the number of points the student earned toward the assignment, project, quiz, or test. They are not percentage values. For example, an assignment may be worth 20 points and the grade you see in PowerSchool might be "19." This does not mean the student earned a 19%, it means they earned 19 out of 20 points. By clicking on the assignment, you should be able to see all the details I provide about it, which includes the total points possible and occasionally a note specific to why the student earned that specific grade. PowerSchool will still show you the student's overall percentage grade for the class.

Typing Club - 30 Points a Week for 30 Minutes of Typing

Students will participate in a computer typing course at the start of most class periods. Students will be given 10 minutes at the beginning of the period to engage with the online typing course. By the end of the week, students are required to achieve 30 minutes of typing. Grading is points based: every minute the student achieves equals 1 point, up to 30 points (or 30 minutes) total.

After the first month of engagement with the program, students may receive point deductions from the teacher if they are 1) off task during typing time, or 2) not practicing appropriately (example: using the hunt and peck technique rather than resting fingers on the home row).

Classwork Assignments - Points Based (varies)

Classwork Assignments are expected to be completed during the class period. Any classwork that is not completed during the class period becomes Homework. Students will be graded based on the rubric for that particular assignment. Students can expect to complete a minimum of one assignment each week. Assignments generally support or build up to projects and quizzes.

Assignment Points System Grading:

Multiple Choice and Written Response Assignments

The number of points an assignment is worth depends on the number of questions a student is required to answer. Generally, each multiple choice question or one word answer question is worth 1 point, while written response questions can be worth anywhere from 2 to 5 points each. For written response questions, students are told how to earn the highest number of points possible, usually requiring them to answer each part of a question and to follow specific writing standards.

Projects, Quizzes, and Tests - Points Based (varies)

Throughout the semester students will work on independent and group projects that will be graded based on the rubric for the project. Students can also expect to take assessments (Quizzes and Tests) at regular intervals assess their learning.

Project Points System Grading:

Students will be graded based on the project's rubric. Rubrics help students choose what grade they want to earn by providing specific guidance on what is required to earn a specific grade range (example: A 100-90%, B 89%-80%, etc.).

Quiz and Test Points System Grading:

The number of points a quiz or test is worth depends on the number of questions a student is required to answer. Generally, each multiple choice question or one word answer question is worth 1 point, while written response questions can be worth anywhere from 2 to 5 points each. For written response questions, students are told how to earn the highest number of points possible, usually requiring them to answer each part of a question and to follow specific writing standards.

Semester Final Evaluations - 20% of Semester Grade

At the end of each semester students will take a Final Exam that reviews knowledge gained over the course of the entire semester.

Final Exam Points System Grading:

The number of points a quiz or test is worth depends on the number of questions a student is required to answer. Generally, each multiple choice question or one word answer question is worth 1 point, while written response questions can be worth anywhere from 2 to 5 points each. For written response questions, students are told how to earn the highest number of points possible, usually requiring them to answer each part of a question and to follow specific writing standards.

Other Information

Classroom Rules and Discipline Policy

1) Be respectful to adults and peers. 2) Use technology appropriately. 3) Be respectful of each other's health. 4) Be respectful of each other's right to learn. 5) Be on time and prepared for class.

Electronics Policy:

Any non-approved electronics that are visible to the teacher will be confiscated and turned into the front office as directed in PAPA's Student Handbook.

Supplies:

If you cannot get specific supplies for this class, please inform me and I will be happy to help.

Powerschool:

Parents and students should regularly log in to check their grades on Powerschool.