

**Advanced 6th GRADE SOCIAL STUDIES  
MONTGOMERY VILLAGE MIDDLE SCHOOL**

Instructor: Melissa\_Besso@mcpsmd.org

**Welcome to 6th Grade Social Studies! The goal of Social Studies is to create literate and well informed citizens who actively participate in a democratic society. This course provides enriched opportunities for learning about ancient world history. Building on the current four units of Grade 6 world studies, students deepen their understanding of the rich cultures and history from the earliest human settlements to great civilizations of the year 1000CE. Students are challenged to analyze archaeological evidence, ask questions to further their knowledge, and understand history as on-going investigation.**

**UNITS**

**6.1 Patterns of Settlement in the Ancient and Modern Worlds**

In this unit students learn about human settlement patterns and the influence of geography in the growth of civilizations. The “Fertile Crescent” of Mesopotamia, Indus River Valley, and the Nile River Valley are explored along with a research project on Ancient Egypt.

**6.2 Citizenship and Governance in Classical and Modern Times**

In the unit students learn about political systems and governments. The growth of democratic political systems and concepts of citizenship in the Greek city-states and the Roman Republic are the main focus of study.

**6.3 The Impact of Economics in Ancient and Modern China**

In this unit students learn basic economic concepts. They will study the relationship of the economy to the rise and fall of China’s early dynasties. They also look at the influence of Confucianism, Taois and Legalism on the political and social systems of China.

**6.4 Cultural Systems: The First Millennium and Today**

In this last unit of study students learn about the Principles of Culture and the influence of culture on people today. They study the origins and traditions of the major religions in the world and explore the influence culture had on political and social systems of the first millennium civilizations.

General information, including indicators for each unit, is available online:

[http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/curriculum/social\\_studies/classroom/instruction/](http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/curriculum/social_studies/classroom/instruction/)

**GRADING POLICY**

Students’ academic grades are based on individual academic achievement. Quarter grades will be determined using a scale of: A: 90% - 100%, B: 80% - 89%, C: 70% - 79%, D: 60% - 69%, E: 59% or lower. We will use a variety of tools to assess student learning.

Category	Weight	Description
Summative Assessments/ Unit Assessments	30%	Portions or entire Assessment may NOT be retaken. Examples of Summative Assessments include end of unit tests, and culminating projects.
Formative Assessments	60%	Teacher determines which assessments can be retaken* and will notify students before the assessments. The assessment can be retaken only once. Students must complete required activity(ies) as determined by the Social Studies Department. Examples of Formal Assessments include quizzes, reading and writing assignments, journal entries, warm-ups, exit cards, quizzes, class work, homework evaluated for learning, etc.
Practice/ Prep Homework	10%	Any assignment (textbook assignments and/or worksheets) assigned for practice or preparation for instruction.

MVMS uses the “raw score conversion to percentage” method to calculate grades. Therefore, the # of points a particular assignment is worth does not impact its weight within a category (18/20 carries the same weight as 36/40). However, assignments may still be weighted within categories by assigning weights to specific assignments.

Range of Weights for formative and summative assessments (i.e. quizzes = 2-3, exit card = 1, or other assignments as determined by the teacher). **No extra credit will be assigned.**

*Reassessment of Student Work:* **\*Reassessment grade replaces the original grade.\***

- ONLY Formative assessments (not summatives) may be revised to receive a higher grade until the end of a lesson sequence.
- The reassessment grade replaces the original grade even if the reassessed grade is lower.
- Reteaching / relearning activities are determined by the teacher and must be scheduled within the instructional time.
- Assessments may be reassessed one time, and may be reassessed partially, entirely, or in a different format.

*Late Assignments:* (Due dates / Deadlines - this will be determined in advance by the classroom teacher)

- Each assignment will have a **due date**. This is the date by which you are expected to submit the assignment. Your grade may drop one letter grade if it is not turned in by the due date.
- The **deadline** is the last day an assignment will be accepted for a grade. Work not turned in by the deadline will be considered missing and receive a 0%. Assignments that are completed and meet minimum standard (as indicated by the Social Studies Department), will earn a minimum grade of 50%.

*Learning Skills Grades:*

In addition to the academic grade, students will receive *Learning Skills Grades* each quarter as well. Learning skills grades will assess students’ Participation and Assignment Completion throughout the course. Students may earn the following grades for each of the aforementioned categories:

- C:** Consistently
- O:** Often
- S:** Sometimes
- R:** Rarely
- NI:** Not Enough Information

## GRADE UPDATES

Grades entered in a teacher's electronic gradebook are automatically uploaded to Edline on a nightly basis. Both students and parents should log into Edline regularly to check grades and missing assignments. Students are expected to know their grades, and what, if any, work is missing at all times. There should be no surprises about grades to students or parents; if so, please make sure you contact me. If you need an Edline activation code, please contact our school's Edline Superuser, Alice Marable at [alice\\_marable@mcpsmd.org](mailto:alice_marable@mcpsmd.org). In addition, it would be extremely helpful to enter an active email address in both student and parent Edline accounts; I use this to provide class updates as well as other communication throughout the year.

## COMMUNICATION

One of the most useful ways we have to communicate is your child's data notebook. Please check this daily for information. I can also be reached by email (fastest) or by calling the school (301-840-4660). In addition, please check Edline regularly to know if you are missing work.

Recommended Student Organizational Tools and Supplies There are no fees for this course.

- 3-ringed binder (Section for Social Studies)
- Notebook paper
- Pens (black or blue)
- Tissues
- Colored pencils
- Spiral notebooks(SSJ)
- Pencils and Erasers
- Highlighter

**\*\*Please sign below to indicate that you have read and understand these guidelines. Review these guidelines with your parent / guardian and have them sign them to indicate that they also understand the general course description of this class.\*\***

Student Print Name \_\_\_\_\_ Student Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Parent Print Name \_\_\_\_\_ Parent Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_  
Ms. Carol Eggleston- Content Specialist

\_\_\_\_\_  
Mrs. Michelle Fortune - Assistant Principal

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Dr. Edgar E. Malaker, Principal