

7th Grade Social Studies

MONTGOMERY VILLAGE MIDDLE SCHOOL

Instructors: Amber_M_Leber@mcpsmd.org Luis_Dominguez@mcpsmd.org
Carol_D_Eggleston@mcpsmd.org Michael_E_Kellinger@mcpsmd.org

Welcome to 7th grade World Studies! The goal of World Studies is to help create literate and well informed citizens who actively participate in a democratic society. Students will build on what they have learned in sixth grade to find out how the world turned “modern” because of changes in political systems, cultures, and economies.

MCPS Social Studies Units

7.1 The Influence of Modern Political Systems: Europe in the Middle Ages

In this unit students learn about principles of political systems through the development of feudalism in Europe, and the significant empires of Islam and Byzantium. The Crusades, Black Death, and Mongol Expansion are also analyzed to determine how a middle class, nation-states, and monarchies arose.

7.2 The Influence of Culture in Africa: The Middle Ages and Today

In this unit the classic African civilizations of the Middle Ages are investigated. Students examine how African and Islamic cultures influenced economic and political development in Mali and Songhai. Case studies of African nations today conclude the unit.

7.3 The Impact of Geography: Past and present Meso - America

In this unit students learn about the impact of geography and economic systems and how each has shaped our thinking of the world past and present. The unit explores the complex civilizations of the Aztecs and Incas in the 1400's and concludes with geography's impact on identity in Latin American society today.

7.4 The Interconnected World: One World Past and Present

In this unit students examine the collision of world cultures resulting from European colonization. The Renaissance, market economy, and European enlightenment establish a foundation for transition to United States history in grade eight.

General information, including indicators for each unit, is available online: <http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/curriculum/science/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 an array 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. 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

CLASS EXPECTATIONS

A separate sheet regarding classroom procedures, expectations, and disciplinary actions, will be provided separately and must also be signed by parents.

****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 D. Eggleston, Content Specialist

Mrs. Michelle Fortune - Assistant Principal

Dr. Edgar E. Malter - Principal