

Social Studies Class Information

Teacher: Jill McGinn- Room 240
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Textbooks: Geography Alive! - The World and Its People (6 & 7), History Alive! -The Ancient World (6)
Publisher- Teachers' Curriculum Institute

Welcome and thank you for coming to curriculum night. I have enjoyed meeting your children, and am looking forward to working with them during this school year. You are an important part of your child's team, and I want to give you the following information about my class policies.

Communication

We maintain our grade books on PowerSchool. Students and parents can access PowerSchool using a sign-on name and password to check class work, homework and grades. If you need more detailed information about an assignment (in blue type), please click on the name of the assignment. I prefer that students (rather than parents) first talk to me, write a note or send me an e-mail when they have questions about assignments or grades. I suggest that he or she copies you in his or her emails, so that you are still kept in the loop. This encourages and helps develop direct student/teacher communication. Some sixth and seventh grade students need some coaching and support from you to begin developing these self advocacy skills. Sending notes via the student planner also works well because it builds in an opportunity for parents and Ms. McGinn to see how a student's planner is being maintained. There is a section at the bottom of each day and week that can be used for correspondence, or a notes can be stapled right in the planner.

Homework

Homework is assigned to reinforce and extend the concepts presented in class. Work not completed during class may become homework. It is the student's responsibility to write down all homework assignments in his or her daily planner. Homework assignments are written on the board and explained in class each day that homework is assigned. There is a late penalty for late work. Extensions without penalty will be given if a student brings a written note from parent/guardian on or before the due date, explaining why the work could not be completed and the date that the assignment will be turned in.

Grading and Reporting to Parents

Quarterly grades are reported every nine weeks. "Temporary" interim grades are sent home after the halfway point of each quarter. Parents can expect to receive eight grade reports throughout the year. PowerSchool can keep you more up to date than report cards do. The grading scale is set by the school district. Citizenship grades will be assigned based upon the "Citizenship at Slauson" document.