**8th Grade Social Studies Syllabus**

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**Welcome Bulldogs!** *We have a very exciting year ahead of us!*

 We place particular importance on being ***respectful*** and ***responsible***.

**Remind: This year I have a remind activation code set up to communicate large assignments/assessments with parents. If you would like to get these reminders, which I highly recommend, please use the instructions on the attached page. I will send out a test text on Friday, so if you do not receive the message, you may want to attempt the sign-up again.**

**Classroom Materials**

Students must come to every Social Studies class prepared with:

1. Folder or 3-Ring Binder (used strictly for Social Studies class)
2. Pencil
3. Blue or black pen
4. Lined paper
5. Book Cover (a paper bag works perfect, and cheap)
6. Their ***History ALIVE!*** Textbook

**Classroom Donations**

As our year progresses, we find that our classrooms very often run low on necessary supplies. I would greatly appreciate any supply and classroom donations to help all our students succeed.

Recommended items:

1. Kleenex boxes
2. Hand Sanitizer
3. Markers
4. Colored Pencils

**A Few of the Topics Covered**

* The Constitution
* Core Democratic Values
* Creating A Democracy
* Westward Expansion
* Civil War
* Reconstruction

**If You Are Absent**

Being in class, on time and an active participant is the key to success in History Alive! As the class progresses each lesson will build on the last. It is very important not to fall behind. Students should ask for an explanation on missed concepts. Students have one day to complete assignments for each day they are absent (two days absent equals two days make-up time and so on). Extra worksheets can be found in a file in my room and the student should check the classroom calendar to see what they missed. If they have any questions they must see me A.S.A.P.

**Grading and Assignments**

It is my goal to assess the students as we are moving through a unit. These assessments may or may not be graded. Some will be to gauge student readiness to move on to new material. There will be a variety of assignments, concluding with an assessment at the end.

Classwork will be weighted in the following manner: Tests/Quizzes: 90%, Assignments: 10%

**Classroom Website**

I have created a website to help out students while they are at home. The page has many materials that can help each student, including: school links, weekly lesson plans, assignment/worksheet downloads, study guides, etc. The page address is **www.omsbrown.weebly.com**.

**Late Work**

It is the policy of the Social Studies Department that we will only accept late work until the chapter of study is completed. Once that chapter is completed, any work that is not turned in will remain missing and count as a zero in the gradebook.

**Rules and Expectations**

Hallway Policy—Each student is given three hall passes at the beginning of each trimester. They can use these passes as needed (bathroom, locker, etc.) The passes must be present and signed by the teacher in order to be used. Once the passes are gone, the student will not be allowed to leave the room during class time. Extra credit may be given for passes not used during the trimester.

OMS Tardy Policy—The building policy will be enforced in Social Studies. The policy is that the student is allowed three tardies each trimester before an after school detention is issued. This is a total of three tardies for ALL classes, not EACH class.

Substitute Teacher Policy—If a student’s name is written down or left by a substitute teacher, for any reason, a detention will be given the following day.

Cell Phone Policy—The OMS cell phone policy will be enforced in Social Studies. It states, “students may not be in possession of, or use, cell phones or other electronic communication devices during the day.”

Refer to the Student Handbook for any other school policies.

**Contacting the Teacher**

* Success in the classroom is a combination of efforts between students, teachers, and parents. I welcome any questions, concerns, or comments. Communication of both concerns and celebrations will contribute to an effective learning environment for all students.
* The first option for communication should be through the student. I will be more than happy to spend time with him/her for clarification or advice. Parents may also contact me through email tbrown@otsegops.org or the school phone system at 692-6199 ext. 6526, and I will make every attempt to respond within a 24-hour period
* **Note**: e-mail is often the quickest and easiest method to answer simple questions and address concerns. I check e-mail both before and after school.

***I look forward to a great year with you!!!***

**Parents:** Please read over this syllabus with your child and fill out the information below. Your child returning **ONLY** this signed page will be their first grade of this trimester.

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\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Parent email address

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