**Welcome to Mrs. Smith’s**

 **6th Grade Social Studies Class!**

Welcome to 6th grade Social Studies! This year, Mr. Davey and Mrs. Smith will be your guides through learning about the geography, economics, and societies of different regions around the world. From Middle and South America and the Caribbean to Eastern and Western Europe, students will have the opportunity to experience the world through the eyes of a geographer and historian.

Students will learn that geography and the relationships fostered in the world are not just memorizing dates, places, and people. It’s learning about the political, economic, and geographical twists and turns that create, grow, and sustain our world. It’s about learning **WHY** things happen(ed) the way they do- and examining the many sides of the important issues that changed the economics and history of the world.

This class is also about learning to read and write critically. Students will be asked to research using a variety of primary and secondary sources that will help them learn about the significance of historical events. They will also be asked to answer questions regarding the events and people we learn about as well as to support their answers with evidence and analysis. The program of studies in this class reflects the Connecticut Common Core of Learning and National Standards.

**Classroom Expectations:** Expectations in our classroom are fairly simple. In addition to exemplifying the Core Values of our school, students will be expected to *DO THEIR BEST* each day.

*Doing your best* means:

 Be prepared.

 Be honest.

 Be willing to work constructively with your classmates.

 Be enthusiastic.

 Be willing to appreciate others’ opinions.

 Be willing to work hard- even when you may become frustrated.

 Treat your classmates and teachers with respect

**Major Units of Study This School Year:**

* An exploration of atlases- their purposes and uses
* The Five Themes of Geography
* Central America and the Caribbean
* South America
* Eastern and Western Europe

**Grading Policy**: Grades are assigned a number of points. Your grade for each trimester will be calculated through three categories. Classwork and homework assignments count for 10% of your overall grade. Formative assessments, quizzes and minor projects, will constitute 40% of the overall marking period grade. Summative assessments, such as tests and major projects, will make up 50% of your final grade.

 Homework/Classwork/Preparedness- 10%

 Formative Assessment- Quizzes/Minor Projects- 40%

 Summative Assessments- Tests/Major Projects- 50%

*\*Minor and major projects include written responses that can be one or more paragraph(s).*

Homework and class work are expected to be completed on time (unless there is a signed note from a parent or caregiver explaining a sickness/family emergency/etc.- in which case, an extension will be allowed). If you do not complete homework or classwork assignments on time- or you need to make up some note taking or other class assignment- you may complete it during a working lunch or an in-school or after-school time arranged by Mrs. Smith Any assignment or project that is not turned in on time will be entered as a zero for a grade (in Powerschool) until it is turned in. Remember, it is your responsibility to take the initiative to *want* to make up work not completed on time.

For most assignments and projects, students will be provided specific directions, models, and rubrics/grading sheets to guide them through completion. For large projects, students will also be provided with pacing calendars.

For quizzes and tests, students will be provided with materials to help them prepare to succeed. Rather than use the word *study*, our class will focus on strategies and ways to *prepare to succeed.*

You may retake a test if you have a retake form completed and signed by a parent. However, projects that count as test grades may not be retaken or redone.

**Communication and Contact:**

Please feel free to view my Google calendar for daily homework and reminders. You may also contact me by email.

Please sign and return to Mrs. Smith This is your first graded homework assignment.



I have read and understand the expectations for Social Studies with Mrs. Smith this school year.

Student’s Name:

Parent/Caregiver Signature:

Student Signature: