

2018-2019

Grade 6 Social Studies — Course Expectations

Wheeler Middle School
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Room 108

I. Course Overview and Objectives:

Grade 6 social studies builds geographic literacy through the study of cultures in Africa and Asia. Students will learn more than simply the names and locations of countries on a map. More importantly, they will examine the connection between the geography of these places and their history, cultures, governments, and economics. Students will accomplish this in a course rich with opportunities for collaboration with their peers, public speaking, and analytical reading and writing. As part of Wheeler's efforts to emphasize core academic expectations, students in this course will be assessed specifically on analysis skills at certain times throughout the year.

II. Materials Required:

Each student should have a large binder with folders to use for all classes. We recommend a zippered accordion folder. One of the folders (blue) will be used to keep social studies papers.

- composition notebook (to be kept in classroom)
- pencils (bring a few sharpened, with erasers, to class every day)
- small box of colored pencils (keep it in binder)
- highlighter and pen (keep one or two in binder always)

III. Student Responsibilities/Class Expectations:

Students are expected to develop responsibility for their own learning. They should complete all assignments with care and stay on task during class. Please see the student handbook for information about our school's "Pride" program, in which students earn rewards for their academic and behavioral success.

IV. Grading:

Graded assignments may include quizzes, tests, projects, writing assignments, speeches and presentations, research papers, map activities, group activities, class work, and certain homework assignments. Assignments turned in late will be accepted with penalties. Parents and students may check Power School for grades on particular assignments and class averages.

V. *Attendance:*

Please see the student handbook for information on Connecticut state law and school policies regarding school attendance.

VI. *Statement of Academic Integrity:*

■ From the student handbook:

The faculty and administration of Wheeler Middle/High School demand high standards of academic performance and academic honesty. Anything less would jeopardize quality education and allow our students to deny themselves needed skills and knowledge. For this reason, students who cheat on their assigned work, reports, research papers, quizzes, tests, or examinations risk prompt and punitive action by both their teacher and the school. Examples of violations may include, but are not limited to:

- Giving or receiving aid on tests and graded assignments
- Unauthorized talking during tests
- Copying regular homework/exercises
- Unapproved discussion of examinations/assignments contents
- Cheating on peer reviews of student work
- Misuse of technology

Documentation of all sources is important to avoid plagiarism, which is the stealing of another's ideas, words, writing, or academic work, and implying that it is original. Both quoting and paraphrasing information from an outside source, including any technology, without crediting that source is a form of plagiarism. Students who are found cheating or plagiarizing will be subject to the following actions:

First offense:

- Academic penalty up to and including zero
- Parent contacted
- Administration notified (by teachers completing a discipline form)

Subsequent offenses:

- Academic penalty up to and including zero
- Parent contacted
- Disciplinary action by administration, which may include office detention or suspension

VII. *Academic Support:*

Teachers work with students, during SRBI and at other times, to provide academic support, planned interventions, and enrichment across the subject areas. Feel free to contact the teacher to discuss areas of concern and needs for support, or to ask any questions throughout the year.