**Social Studies**

Mrs. Dorothy Harrington

[www.dorothyandrews.weebly.com](http://www.dorothyandrews.weebly.com)

Welcome to eighth grade Social Studies. The curriculum follows the Standard Course of Study which focuses on United States history with a connection to North Carolina history. Class resources include a class set of Prentice Hall’s America and North Carolina: Land of Contrast as well as primary source materials. Books will not be sent home with students, but access to online textbooks can be found on class website. Citizenship as well as an understanding and appreciation of United States and North Carolina History are the goals of this class.

**Materials Required**

* Notebook
  + OPTION ONE: Interactive Notebook (recommended): Five subject notebook with a plastic cover works best.
  + OPTION TWO: One inch three ring binder.
* One package of markers
* Glue Stick(s)
* Scissors

**Classroom Donations**

If you have the ability to donate classroom supplies, please consider doing so.

I have created a “classroom wish list” on Amazon.com, which can be found at the following link. <https://amzn.com/w/1AH7QLKLDF1TC>. General supplies that are needed throughout the year include

* Kleenex/Tissues
* Hand sanitizer
* Glue sticks/Elmers Glue
* Disinfecting wipes.

**Technology:** Students will need to use a computer with internet access to complete many of the class assignments and access online textbooks. If your student does not have access to the internet, please have them talk directly to me. The computer labs are open before school and I can issue a lunch pass to work in the classroom.

**Notebook Guidelines**

Throughout this year in Social Studies, we will be creating an interactive notebook. Not only is the interactive notebook a great tool for organization, but it is a great way for students to apply their knowledge and to complete hands on activities.

Interactive Notebooks work best in a five subject spiral notebook with a plastic (or durable) cover. This year, students also have the option to use a three ring binder. Binders will need to be at least one inch think.

*Please keep in mind that the classroom example notebook will be a spiral notebook. I expect students who are using binders to keep papers in order of the Table of Contents listed in class and online.*

A general interactive notebook unit will contain the following components: Title Page, Anticipation Guide, Teacher led notes, foldables, graphic organizers, other manipulatives, image analyses, writing activities, timelines, or maps.

I put the majority of the interactive notebook assignments on my website, so that if assignments need to be completed at home, they can be.

There will be two types of notebook checks. First is a standard check: I will look through each notebook for completion of all tasks. The second method of checking the notebook will be an open note test comprised of questions directly from the interactive notebook.

It is my expectation that each student brings his/her notebook **EVERY DAY**. We will use the notebook as an in-class and homework resource. Please have your notebooks ready to go on **WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 31**.

**Conduct**

**Respect for yourself, for others, and for property, responsibility, and kindness are keys to success.**

* Come to class with notebook, sharpened pencils, and all other necessary materials.
* Be seated and ready to work at the bell
* Raise your hand and wait to be recognized before speaking.
* Follow directions and instructions the first time.
* Use the restroom between classes and at lunch.
* Book bags are stored in individual lockers.
* Understand and follow all school and Wake County Policies.

*Due to the nature of the subject matter in social studies, we will be discussing some controversial topics and current events. We will spend time discussing elections and opinions of those who are running for office.*

**Grading Information**

*Major assessments:* 50% of total average.

All closed note tests will be announced at least one week before test date. Open notebook tests will be announced at least three days prior to the test. A review powerpoint will be on the class website at least three days prior to each test. Tutoring and review sessions are available at request of the student.

If a student is absent on the day of a test, the make up test will be given on the day of the student’s return. Students need to schedule a time for the make up test.

Re-tests will be given if a student is unhappy with his/her score. Specific criteria must be met before students can sign up for a re-test.

Many projects, long term class assignments, or essays will be counted as test grades. Rubrics will be provided for all major projects, and handed out well in advance of the project due date.

*Minor assessment:* 40% of total average

Minor assessments include smaller writing assginments, notebook checks, and announced quizzes.

*Classwork and Homework Assignments (Practice):* 10% of total average

The majority of homework assignments will be video notes completed throughout the week. Students will be assigned two to three videos per week; videos range in length. Outlines will be available on the class website for each of these videos. Hard copies of these outlines will not be available unless previously requested by students and parents. Students may write notes directly into their interactive notebooks or choose to use the outlines provided. Other homework activities may include the completion of classwork assignments, or completing review sheets prior to tests.

Classwork assignments include any minor writing activity or activities completed in class.

*Martin grading policy sets major assessments (tests) as a 50%, minor assessments (quizzes) as 40%, and practice (homework/classwork) as 10% of the quarterly grade. A final quarter average below 59% will be rounded up to 59% for a final average for a quarter. Grades earned are the grades recorded. Work that is not handed in will be recorded as a zero.*

**Communication**

The best way to get in touch with me is to email me at [DHarrington@wcpss.net](mailto:DHarrington@wcpss.net). I check my email daily and will respond within forty-eight hours of receiving your email.

The class website: [www.dorothyandrews.weebly.com](http://www.dorothyandrews.weebly.com) is updated on a daily basis with assignments, important information, and calendar updates.

In addition to the website, we will have a classroom twitter account, HarringtonNC8. This account will be used for classroom use only. We will spend time in class discussing the idea of “digital citizenship” and ways to appropriately use resources like twitter. We will discuss how to determine what is appropriate to poste online and what is inappropriate to post. We will also look at how to create a positive “digital footprint”. These conversations should prepare students for using the twitter account.

**Make Up Work**

It is the student’s responsibility to consult the class website and/or a study buddy. Make up work is submitted according to guidelines in the Martin Handbook. Assignments should be submitted prior to field trips.

Everyone: Student, parent, teacher, working closely together will ensure that your student is an a learning environment that strives for mastery in instruction and learning. *I look forward to a successful partnership with you and your student! I look forward to a terrific year!*

Please read and discuss this general information as a family. Sign and return just this verification slip to Mrs. Harrington no later than Friday, September 2, 2016. Thank you!

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Parent/Guardian Name- Please print: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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Parent Contact Information:

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Email Addresses:

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*Please circle or star the method of communication which works best for your family.*