

7th Grade Gold Social Studies Syllabus

Introduction

Hello, my name is Mr. Michael Pitcher. I want to welcome my 7th graders to Charleston Middle School and to my classroom. I'm excited about the opportunity to get to know you and am looking forward to an exciting and productive school year. This 22-23 school year will be my 15th year of teaching and my 4th year teaching at Charleston Middle School. I previously taught for 3 years at Casey and 8 years in Paris. I grew up on a farm in Cumberland County until I moved to Charleston in 2006 where I live still today. I have a Bachelor's of Science degree in Elementary Education with a middle-level endorsement in Social Sciences and a Master's of Science degree in Educational Leadership with a principalship endorsement and a teacher evaluation certification.

Social Studies

We cover 1400's-1850's with a focus on American History. We will cover early American civilizations, Age of Enlightenment, the American Revolution, American Government, Westward Expansion, and finish the year around the 1850's, where 8th grade will pick up next year. You can see the Illinois Standards we teach as outlined by the district's Social Studies Framework on the school district's website and on my personal class page.

Links:

- <https://charlestoncusd1il.sites.thrillshare.com/documents/departments/curriculum-and-instruction/subject-area-curriculum-mapping/social-science/grade-7/181123>
- <https://pitcherss.weebly.com/>

Grades/Homework

Grades for 7th grade Social Studies will be comprised of the points your student receives on class discussion and notes, in-class assignments, projects, and assessments. Grades will be weighted as follows.

Class Discussion/Notes= 10%

In-Cass Assignments= 20%

Projects= 30%

Assessments= 40%

My class will follow a **NO HOMEWORK POLICY**. If time is used wisely in class, there should be no reason to have homework. Missing work will substantially affect your scholar's grade. Missing/absent work will be scored as a "0" and marked "missing" until it is turned in. All completed work will go into the student's social studies folder in order to review for assessments. There are no study guides in this class. Students will get "Discussion Guides" that students can use to discuss the main points from class discussion and lessons.

If your scholar is absent, it is their responsibility to check the online calendar, check Skyward or contact the teacher for missed assignments. Extra copies of work will be on Empower and in a tray in the classroom. Your student can get the worksheets they missed when they return to school. Grades are determined as: 100-90% =A; 89-80% =B; 79-70%=C; 69-60%=D; 59% and below =F.

We will require our students to fill out their planners with classroom assignments daily. We encourage parents to check their student's planner nightly and/or check the team website to verify daily assignments. For various reasons students sometimes fail to complete homework. Students, who are absent, have one day for every day they were absent to make-up their assignments. If a student is absent before an upcoming quiz, test, project, etc. that the student has known about, the task will be completed the day the student returns to school.

Supplies

These will be daily required supplies. Other supplies may be needed throughout the year and I will do my best to provide them or let the students know in advance.

Please provide your scholar with the following supplies:

- **Computer (charged nightly!)**
- **folder**
- **pencils**
- **planner**
- Will be asked on occasion to bring other items such as: colored pencils, markers, or crayons

Behavior Policy and Classroom Routines

A school wide behavior plan is in place at CMS. Be sure to read the planner for possible consequences. Obviously, some behavior may bypass team discipline and be addressed directly with misconduct referrals. 7th grade teams will focus on meaningful and effective behaviors. 7th graders will follow expectations aligned with the Leader in Me Program using punch cards that will be used to track student successes towards specific behavior goals. Punch cards are a form of formative behavior tracking. They will be placed in the back of planners and parents are encouraged to view them periodically. Students will receive positive punches for displaying Leader in Me Qualities and may be issued a negative punch after repeated attempts to correct a behavior that is not following expectations. See the 7 Gold Team Welcome Letter for more specific information.

We will...

- **Be respectful of the classroom and its contents, including the other students.**
- **Be responsible! Come to class prepared and be proactive.**
- **Seek first to understand! Follow directions and be a good listener.**
- **Encourage others by supporting all ideas and being a leader to others.**

Please feel free to contact me via email or telephone if you have any questions regarding a class assignment or your scholar's progress. My email address is pitcherm@charleston.k12.il.us. You may also telephone me at school and leave a message at 217- 639-6039.

To access my social studies page and our Gold Team page use this link:
<https://www.charleston.k12.il.us/o/cms/page/academics>.

I look forward to meeting you. Here is to an exciting year!!!

Sincerely,
Mr. Michael Pitcher