

Classroom/Grading Policy

To accomplish the goal of furthering the education of all students and in order to guarantee the same educational opportunities for everyone, I am requesting the following policies and expectations be followed by all students. The policies and procedures contained in the school handbook are to be followed by students at all times. The following information consists of additional rules and policies of the teacher, many of which are similar to or the same as overall school policies.

I. CONDUCT:

In addition to school policies contained in the handbook, the following is also considered inappropriate behavior:

- A. Excessive or loud talking.
- B. Use of any cell phone or any other electronic musical device.
- C. Talking without permission or leaving your seat without permission.
- D. Interrupting the teacher or a fellow student while they are speaking. Respect the right of all students to contribute and ask questions.
- E. Inappropriate language, comments, or gestures to others. **NO PUT-DOWNS.**
- F. Cheating WILL NOT BE tolerated. A zero for the work will be given if a student engages in this behavior, detention will be assigned, and parents contacted.
- G. In the closing minutes of class, students must stay in their seat until the bell rings.

Inappropriate Behavior will result in the following: (The infraction will determine the order in which discipline steps are followed. Steps C and D may switch depending on the situation)

- A. Verbal Warning
- B. Student/Teacher Conference
- C. Parent/Guardian Contact
- D. After-School Detention (during which work will be done)
- E. Administration Referral

Tardy Policy: If a student is late to class on a regular basis, the following policy will be in effect:

- A. Teacher Inquiry into Lateness.
- B. Verbal Warning.
- C. Second Verbal Warning
- D. Phone call to Parent/Guardian
- E. After-School Detention
- F. Office Intervention

II. GENERAL POLICIES and INFORMATION:

- A. Substitutes: Students are to treat substitute teachers properly, the same way that they would treat their regular teacher. Full reports will be taken by the substitute and problems taken care of when the regular instructor returns to class.
- B. Notebooks are required. Students should use three-ring binders. Spiral notebooks are not recommended since they cannot accommodate handouts. Notebooks will be checked. Any student having difficulty meeting this requirement should see the teacher.
- C. Book covers are recommended. Any textbook damaged severely will be replaced by the student at the appropriate cost.
- D. The student must come to class prepared each day with their textbook (when needed), notebook (always), and pencil or pen (always).
- E. Bathroom and hall passes are issued only by Mr. Perry.
- F. Selling of candy in the classroom is not permitted unless approved by Mr. Perry.
- G. Please do not write on desks or bulletin boards.
- H. Detention must be served on the next clinic day available. Exceptions will only be made for medical appointments or if a parent calls the teacher to discuss a special circumstance which necessitates the child accompany a parent during the detention time. All arrangements for such rescheduling must be made in advance. Students involved in extra-curricular activities, including sports or employed after school, should consider this rule and therefore avoid the type of behavior that might result in a detention.

III. GRADING POLICY:

General Information: Grades will be weighted by category.

- Category A — Tests, Quizzes, Research Assignments, Projects, and Presentations.
- Category B — Homework, Class work, Content readings, Notebooks, and Essays.
- Category C — Prepared for Class, Class Participation, and Discussion Participation.

Grade Criteria/Composition:

Category A: 70%

Category B: 20%

Category C: 10%

- Participation grades are calculated at the end of each marking period. Participation grades are earned and not simply given. If a student does not participate, they do not earn any points. Completing homework assignments is part of your participation grade. Therefore any homework assignments not completed will result in points being deducted from both Category B & C. This

reduces the possible points that can be earned and thus the overall participation grade.

- Within each category a different amount of points can be assigned per event. For example, a test may be worth 100 points while a quiz may be worth only 30 points.

Due Dates

- Due dates are final for all major grades unless special arrangements are made well in advance of the due date with the teacher (The teacher will be as flexible as possible when it comes to due dates and understands the demands of family, sports, clubs, jobs, and other classes).
- Advance notice for major grades will be given to help the student manage their time. Research papers should be finished prior to the deadline in order to avoid last minute problems, such as computer or printer malfunctions or other distracting events.
- Students who do not complete or make up work within the allotted time will not receive any credit for those assignments and will not have an opportunity to complete the work at a later date unless arrangements are made with the teacher — Category A assignments (points can be taken off for assignments handed in late). Category B assignments can be handed in late but will only receive partial credit. (See #11 below for further clarification on homework assignments.)

I do allow re-takes on any Quizzes and Tests or re-writes on Papers. My policy is:

1. Re-takes must be taken ASAP. Any student who wants to re-take a quiz or test must inform Mr. Perry immediately. The time frame for re-takes is limited, usually within one week of the quiz or test being returned to the student. A paper re-write time frame is also limited, usually within two weeks of the paper being returned to the student. Again, the student must inform me immediately that they are going to re-write their paper.
2. Grading for re-takes works like this: (a) if you earned a 60 to 79 on your original test, quiz or paper, you may re-take that quiz or test or re-write that paper and earn up to an 80. However your re-take must be perfect in order to earn that 80. Any questions or essays wrong on the re-take will be deducted from 80. (b) If you earned a 0 to 59 on your original test or quiz or paper, you may re-take that quiz or test or re-write that paper and earn up to a 70. However your re-take must be perfect in order to earn that 70. Any questions or essays wrong on the re-take will be deducted from 70. (c) If you desire to take a quiz or test or re-write a paper for a 3rd time, then the best grade you can get is a passing grade, 60. Again any questions or essays wrong on the re-take will be deducted from 60.

Additional Grading/Testing Information:

1. All forms of cheating result in a ZERO with no re-take opportunity.
2. Do not make any stray marks on Scantron Sheets (this could be viewed as an attempt to alter the grade scanning action of the machine and thus could be viewed as an attempt to cheat on a test)
3. Poor spelling will not count against you on quizzes or tests but will count on all papers.
4. On daily work, pen or pencil is acceptable.
5. All students are graded on **merit, not on behavior**. This teacher feels that it is not right to penalize a student's grade for inappropriate behavior.
6. Extra-credit assignments are available, but not encouraged. My second chance policy is the best way to improve a poor grade, however I understand special circumstances can occur that might dictate an extra credit assignment. See me if these circumstances occur.
7. Students are responsible for keeping track of all assignments. All students should keep an assignment sheet in the front of their notebooks or use the calendar planner in their student handbook. When a student is absent they should check the assignment board or ask the teacher what work they missed.
8. When a student is absent, for whatever reason, they are responsible for all the work that occurred during the missed class, and must make up all missed work as soon as possible. All work should be made up within a day after the student returns to school (Unless there is an extended illness or extenuating circumstance). This is standard policy unless there are special circumstances or other arrangements are made with the teacher.
9. Students are encouraged to keep track of their grade and may ask the teacher whenever they would like an update on their progress. Progress reports are issued at anytime to any student(s). Please allow me enough time to print out these reports. Interim reports are issued at the half-way point of every Marking Period.
10. All graded material is returned and should be saved by the student in their notebook. Other student work, tests, and projects may be seen or discussed anytime after school. Parents are encouraged to ask their children about how they are doing in class so that they may keep up-to-date on their child's progress.
11. If a student fails to turn in daily homework they will receive a zero for that assignment. If the homework is turned in the next day, the student will get half credit. Every student will get one free homework pass per Marking Period. Use it or lose it. You may not carry over free homework passes from Marking Period to Marking Period. During a Marking Period if a student fails to turn in his/her homework assignment on time for a total of four assignments, the fourth missed assignment and any missed assignment thereafter will result in an automatic afternoon detention with Mr. Perry. The assignment will be completed during this detention.
12. All tests are designed for an allotted amount of time and should be finished within that time unless so designated in an IEP or by specific arrangement with the teacher.

IV. COMPUTER AND INTERNET USE POLICY:

Starting this year, our classroom will have approximately 33 computers. Room 211 is now a computer lab but its primary purpose is to serve as a classroom. Our room was converted to a computer lab to accommodate state testing. Therefore I expect the following behavior from all of my students:

- All students will be assigned one computer. They will be responsible for that computer.
- No altering the computer desktop. No accessing inappropriate material.
- **DO NOT** turn on the monitor until instructed by me to do so. This is a classroom first, a computer lab second.
- Use the printers with care. In other words, do not send dozens of pages of material to the printer at one time. Be cautious and use common sense.
- No mass printings off of the Internet — highlight what you need and print out only what you need. If you require help, let me know.

V. THE VALUE OF SOCIAL STUDIES:

A common misconception this teacher would like to clear up is that history and social studies are the same things. This is not true. Although some may use the phrase "history class" you can learn so much more than just history in a social studies classroom. Not only does social studies teach students the history of a place or time period but also the following concepts: geography, culture, societal structure, current issues and problems, economics, philosophy, research methods, writing skills, legal ideas, psychology, sociology, anthropology, literature, political science, human behavior, multiculturalism, human understanding, arts and literature of regions, mistakes of the past, computer and internet use, group project skills, public speaking experience, etc, etc, etc. In other words, each student learns more than just history in a SOCIAL STUDIES classroom.

Another question often asked by students is "why do we have to know this". Sometimes there is not always a direct link between something that is currently being learned and its application in some aspect of our lives. Often learning something one day that seems trivial to a student allows for future learning or for a higher understanding to be illustrated. The more knowledge you have, the further you will go in life. Knowledge must not be limited to "what do I need to know". No great mind in our history has said, "Don't teach me anymore, I don't have to know this, I won't have to use this in my job". They embrace as much knowledge as they can, in any field, and they always want to learn more. Knowledge is power.

SOCIAL STUDIES

Geography	History	Economics	Sociology	Philosophy	Literature	Anthropology
Multiculturalism	Current Issues and Problems		Psychology	Religion	Political Science	