

# NETCONG

## ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Middle School Social Studies

Mr. Salerno

### 6<sup>th</sup> Grade – Ancient Civilizations: Art and Archeology

**Teacher:** Mr. Thomas J. Salerno

**Email:** [TSalerno@NetcongSchool.org](mailto:TSalerno@NetcongSchool.org)

**Voicemail:** 973-347-0020 (x223)

**Class Website:** [www.SocialStudiesWithMrSalerno.com/6th-Grade.html](http://www.SocialStudiesWithMrSalerno.com/6th-Grade.html)

**Social Studies Twitter:** Salerno20192020

Dear 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Students:

Welcome, 6<sup>th</sup> Graders, to Middle School Social Studies! I hope you will find our class interesting, exciting, and a lot fun! This year we will be working hard to develop new skills in order to learn about our history and the world around us. This syllabus will give you some excellent information that will help you to become an important member of our classroom community, so please review this packet very carefully and keep it at home in a safe place! I am looking forward to an AWESOME year!

#### What Are We Going To Learn About?

Social Studies is all about people, from *the past* and from *the present!* 6<sup>th</sup> Graders will spend the year learning about people who lived over two thousand years ago in Ancient Civilizations all over the Mediterranean. We will begin the year by studying early humans in Hunter-Gatherer and Nomadic Societies, such as Otzi the Iceman. Next we will examine the earliest civilizations in the Near East, including the Mesopotamia City-States and the Egyptian Civilization along the Nile River. Next, we will

examine Greek Mythology in detail. Finally, we will conclude the year by studying the Civilizations along the Mediterranean Sea, including the Phoenicians, Minoans, Mycenaeans, the Greek City-States such as Athens and Sparta, and the Romans. Along the way, we will be carefully investigating the rich cultures of these ancient civilizations by examining their art and archeological artifacts to learn about their belief systems, how their governments worked, and how their people lived in society. Our main goal will be to understand the legacy of these ancient civilizations in order to appreciate their impact on our society in the twenty-first century. Believe it or not, we have a lot in common with these Ancients!

To accomplish this goal, we will spend the year thinking about these three BIG questions:

First, we'll ask *why* have relations amongst humans and groups of humans become increasingly complex over the course of history? Second, we'll question *how* has the relationship between human beings and the natural environment affected human life over the course of history? And finally we'll wonder, *what* human views and ideas about society, nature, life and death, and each other have changed over the course of history?

### **What Supplies Will We Need?**

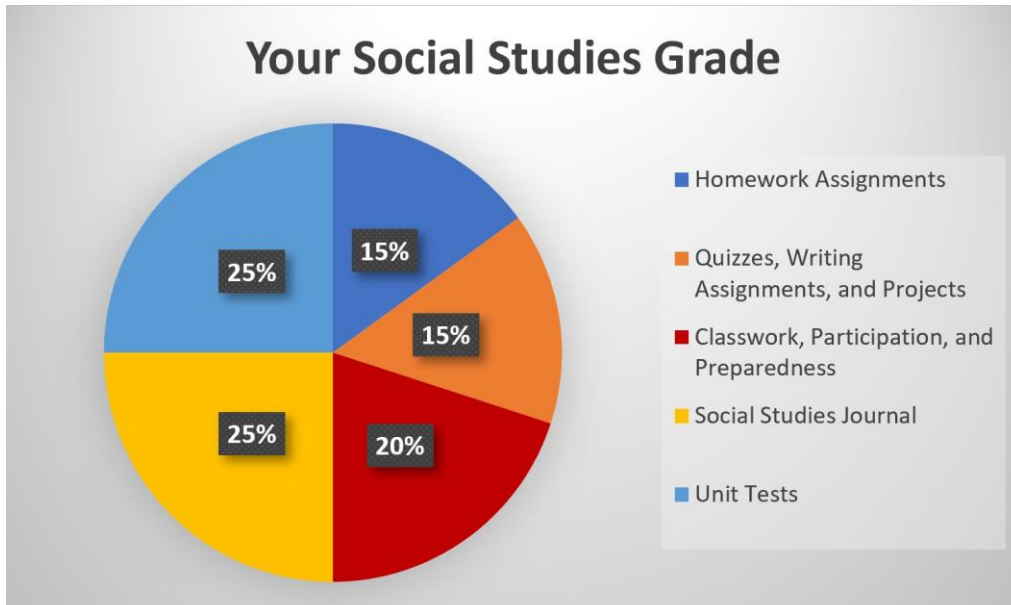
- 1 Composition Notebooks (*The kind with hard front and back covers work best!*)
- 1 One-Subject Spiral Notebook (*The kind with hard front and back covers work best!*)
- 1 Plastic Folder
- 2 Pens (Blue or Black Ink) and a few Pencils with Erasers
- 2 Highlighters (*Whichever color you prefer is fine with me*)
- 1 One-Inch Round Ring Binder
- 1 Standard Set of Earbuds (*For the Google Chromebook*)

#### **Optional Gear:**

- Personal Arts & Crafts Supplies (*Such as Colored Pencils and Markers*)
- Hand Sanitizer

Of course, if you have *any trouble* getting any of the items listed above, please just let me know!

## How Will I Earn My Grade?



Homework Assignments – 15%

Quizzes, Writing Assignments, and Projects – 15%

Classwork, Participation, and Preparedness – 20%

Social Studies Journal – 25%

Unit Tests – 25%

## What Should I Do If I Have Questions or Need Help?

If you are having trouble, need some help, or have questions, I am here for you! Here are some strategies we can use to help you be as successful in 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Social Studies as possible.

- If you have a question, chances are that someone else might have the same question! Visit [www.SocialStudieswithMrSalerno.com](http://www.SocialStudieswithMrSalerno.com) to see if I already tweeted out a helpful reminder!
- You can also send me **an email!** I usually respond to emails within 24 hours during the week!
- I am also available for extra help every day before school (*no appointment needed in the morning*) and most days after school (*make an appointment ahead of time for the afternoon*)

## What Classroom Rules Will We Follow?

*“Work hard. Don't quit. Be appreciative, be thankful, be grateful, be respectful. Also, never whine, never complain. And always, for crying out loud, keep a sense of humor” - Michael Keaton*

- **Be Respectful**
- **Work Hard**

The most important rule in Social Studies is that everyone is **entitled** to be treated with Respect. In our Social Studies Class, we treat ourselves, our classmates, our school work, our resources, and our teachers with Respect in order to make our classroom a positive place for learning. Getting in the habit of treating others with respect takes a lot practice and we can demonstrate respect for others in many different ways! For example, in class we can show respect by...

- Raising our hands and waiting to be called upon before speaking
- Actively listening when others are speaking without interrupting
- Following instructions carefully
- Taking care of shared classroom materials and resources (Chromebooks)
- Using appropriate language for school
- Keeping cell phones and other personal belongings in our locker
- Not bringing food or drinks (*except water*) to class

## What Classroom Routines Will We Use?

Our time together is very valuable so it is important that we follow a few routines in order to use our class time as wisely as possible. Here are a few of the most important routines for Social Studies ...

- Please arrive to class on time, ready to learn, and with all necessary materials
- Follow the “traffic flow” and pick up the day’s handouts as you pass the **HANDOUTS** table
- Find your Social Studies Journal in your class’ bin and then find your seat
- Open your Social Studies Journal and start working *on your own*.

## **How Will We Deal With General Inappropriate Behavior?**

Although we expect that everyone will *choose* to demonstrate respect, everybody makes mistakes from time to time. In order to deal general inattentive or inappropriate behavior, we will use the following:

- **Strike One** – Student will be made aware of their inappropriate or inattentive behavior and will be encouraged to make a better behavioral choice
- **Strike Two** – Student will be asked to switch seats to minimize class disruptions and will meet with Mr. Salerno after class to have a one-on-one conversation about expectations
- **Strike Three** – Student will be asked to leave the classroom to meet with Mrs. Walsh or Mr. Ceresnak to discuss their behavior, actions, choices, and decisions

### **Four Specific Regulations and Consequences**

In an effort to provide fairness and consistency, the following rules will be in effect and strictly enforced

**Regulation #1:** Students are not to enter the area surrounding Mr. Salerno’s Desk (“Crossing the line”)

**Consequence** – Afterschool Detention the following afternoon (3:00pm-3:30pm in Room 201)

**Regulation #2:** Students are to carefully return their shared Chromebook to the Chrome Cart after each use and ensure that they are in the correct slot, plugged in, and charging for the next user

**Consequence** – Afterschool Detention the following afternoon (3:00pm-3:30pm in Room 201)

**Regulation #3:** Students are expected to show respect by following all clear and direct instructions

**Consequence** – Afterschool Detention the following afternoon (3:00pm-3:30pm in Room 201) and Contact Home (via Email or Phone). This is typically done before the end of the school day

**Regulation #4:** Students are expected to comply with the Anti-Bullying Bill of Rights and Policy 5512

**Consequence** – Reported to Mrs. Walsh or Mr. Ceresnak that day, as required by the ABR Act, and Afterschool Detention the following afternoon (3:00pm-3:30pm in Room 201)

## Anything Else We Should Know?

**Absences and Make-Ups** – If you are absent, it is your responsibility to find out what you missed the day you return to class. First, check Google Classroom for a brief update of what we learned about in class that day. Next, check the **EXTRA HANDOUTS** Basket to find any handouts, worksheets, or assignments you might have missed. Finally, ask a trusted classmate if you missed any notes. Of course, if you missed a Test or Quiz, you will need to make that up as soon as possible.

**Late Work**– Late work will *always* be accepted for partial credit. All Social Studies Assignments are worth doing, even if they are done late.

**Getting Grades Back** – Unless otherwise noted, you can expect to receive graded work back within 48 hours of handing it in (*on time*) and your grades will be posted to Genesis in a timely manner. It is very important to me that you receive feedback on your work as soon as possible. However, your grades are **private**. When we receive grades in class, please do not share your grades with classmates.

**Life Happens** – Sometimes life happens! If there is something going on in your life that is making it difficult for you to do your very best work, let me know and we'll figure out a plan that works for everybody. You can always expect to be treated with Kindness, Fairness, and Respect! Just make sure you reach out and let me know in advance—I won't be able to help unless you ask for my help!

There will be a few more routines and expectations that we will learn throughout the year, such as our expectations for Journal Writing, however this is an excellent start. We are going to have a fantastic year together! Please take this packet home, read it carefully, and return it after it has been signed by a parent or guardian at home. As always, please let me know if you have any questions!



Dear 6th Grade Parent(s) / Guardian(s),

Please allow me to introduce myself: My name is Tom Salerno and will be your 6<sup>th</sup> Grader's Middle School Social Studies Teacher for the 2019-2020 School Year. I am looking forward to another outstanding and exciting school year here at Netcong!

This year our 6<sup>th</sup> Graders will be learning about Ancient Civilizations in order better understand our modern society. Although we often think of Ancient Civilizations as—well “ancient”—my goal is to create a positive, enriching, and fun learning environment that helps students to recognize the deep connections between our experiences and the experiences of the Ancients. I think it is extremely important to make history “come alive”, so we will spend much of our time learning about these societies by working with written texts and primary sources, art, music, historical artifacts, film, and digital media.

Entering Middle School is a very exciting time for our 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Students! They will be travelling between multiple classrooms, getting to know several new teachers, using lockers, and becoming involved in new extracurricular sports and activities. They will also be grappling with a variety of new academic challenges, expectations, and responsibilities. As the year progresses, the 6<sup>th</sup> Graders will begin to assemble their “tool kit” of skills that they will use throughout the rest of their Middle School Career. For Social Studies, we will work to reinforce the importance of staying organized, meeting deadlines, communicating effectively, and recognizing the need to take ownership for our responsibilities.

You can rest assured that all students will be treated with **kindness**, **fairness**, and **respect**! When questions, comments, or roadblocks come up, please feel free to reach out to me at your convenience, via email or telephone. I am committed to providing the best experience for your 6<sup>th</sup> Grader as possible!

Sincerely,

Tom Salerno