



SOCIAL STUDIES 7

Ms. FAUSON

Welcome to DeWitt Junior High, and welcome to my class! Seventh grade social studies is focused on early world history and geography. This year we will use the tools and thought processes used by historians and geographers. You will develop an understanding of early world history from the beginnings of human society into the fifteenth century CE. Civics, government, and economics content is integrated throughout the year.

CONTACT INFORMATION

- Telephone: 517.668.3286
- E-mail: fausonk@dewittschools.net
- Website: <http://fauson.weebly.com>
- Instructional support/material will be found on Google Classroom

MATERIALS

Pencils
One-subject notebook or lined paper
One-inch, three-ring binder*
Student planner (or alternate method)

Other Helpful Materials

Pens/highlighters/colored pencils
Dividers for three-ring notebook
Sticky notes

*We do not have a textbook for this course. Students will be building a textbook in their binders as they progress through the course. Each unit in the course will be a separate section in the binder and will have a table of contents. Due to the large number of handouts students will receive, I highly encourage students to have a binder.

CLASSROOM BEHAVIOR EXPECTATIONS

- We use ROAR as a common language here at DJHS to set behavior expectations. We will discuss these ideas further in depth within the first couple weeks of class so that we all have an understanding of what we should expect of each other.
- After the first couple of weeks, students will be forming learning groups and will set expectations for behavior within their groups by creating a social contract.

HOMEWORK

- Homework will be assigned occasionally. Typical homework involves completing map assignments, completing readings, or doing readings to prepare for class discussion.
- Assignments other than projects are designed to help you learn. These assignments are not typically collected and scored, and they are not part of your grade. I will keep track of whether or not you are completing this work on time, however. They will be logged in to the Completion section of the gradebook.

HANDLING ABSENCES

- In the case of an unexpected absence, you have as many days to make up work as you were absent. It is in your best interest to make up work as soon as possible. See me at the beginning of class (during the Starter) for your make-up work.
- Absent and make-up work should be turned in to the in box on my desk upon your return.
- If you are home ill, you may e-mail me directly to make a homework request. Please request work only if you are sure that you feel up to completing it. Sometimes, it is better to take a day off and rest.
- If you know of an absence in advance, you may request work. Please request work only if you are sure that you will have time to complete it. Any work that I give you before you leave should be completed by the time you return. If your absence is long, it is likely that you will have to make up some work when you return.
- Any tests or quizzes that you missed during an absence must be made up within three school days of your return. To avoid missing more instruction, make-up tests and quizzes are given after school.

GRADING

- The Social Studies 7 teachers use a standards-based grading system rather than a traditional points-based grading scale. In standards-based grading, you will earn a proficiency score for each standard or learning goal.
- All scores that make up your grade will be reported in the Content Mastery section of the gradebook. (The other section in the gradebook is used to track assignment completion and does not count toward your grade.)
- Here is what your proficiency scores mean:
 - 4: The student demonstrates in-depth understanding of the standard.
 - 3: The student demonstrates understanding of the standard.
 - 2: The student demonstrates partial understanding of the standard.
 - 1: Learning has begun, but the student has trouble demonstrating understanding without teacher help.
 - 0: The student is unable to demonstrate understanding of the standard; there is no evidence of learning.
- At the end of the trimester, your proficiency scores will be averaged to determine your grade. All standards are weighed equally.
- The standards-based grading scale is as follows:

A = 3.75 to 4.00	C = 2.00 to 2.49
A- = 3.50 to 3.74	C- = 1.75 to 1.99
B+ = 3.25 to 3.49	D+ = 1.50 to 1.74
B = 3.00 to 3.24	D = 1.25 to 1.49
B- = 2.75 to 2.99	D- = 1.00 to 1.24
C+ = 2.50 to 2.74	E = 0.00 to 0.99
- Along with a letter grade, Infinite Campus reports a percent. (It converts your proficiency scores to a percent before calculating your grade.) This percent does not indicate a raw score or correlate with a traditional grading scale based on percent. Please ignore the percent and focus on your proficiency scores.
- Standards-based grading does not allow for extra credit. A student is always welcome to do extra work to improve his/her performance on a standard.

REASSESSMENT

- Retakes are offered at my discretion. They are available for students who have worked hard and taken responsibility for learning the material but need a little more time to develop complete understanding. They are not to be used as a substitute for hard work and responsibility. Students have multiple opportunities to seek clarification when they don't understand by asking questions in class or making an appointment to stay after school for extra help. Take responsibility for your learning BEFORE the quiz or test by letting me know when you don't understand. I reserve the right to refuse reassessment if the problem is one of responsibility rather than academic difficulty.
- If you would like to continue working to improve your understanding of a learning target, see me as soon as the quiz, test, or project is returned. You will be asked to fill out a form in order to reflect on your learning and help you prepare for the retake.
- The retake window for each learning target is five school days after the assessment for that learning target was returned. At that point, the learning target is "closed"—no more retakes will be allowed. It is to your benefit to clear up misconceptions and retake as soon as possible.
- Retakes are held after school by appointment. Retake appointments are testing situations and must be taken seriously. If you do not show up for an appointment, you will not be given a second appointment.
- You will often be given an alternative version of the assessment. This typically includes oral questioning, asking you to "teach" me what you've learned, redoing assignments, or doing a project of your own creation.
- The previous score will be replaced with the most recent score.
- If you are asking for retakes frequently, we need to figure out why. I will likely ask for a conference with you and your parents to figure out why you're having difficulties.

PLEASE PLACE IN YOUR BINDER FOR FUTURE REFERENCE. THANKS!