

**Classroom Procedures for Students:
Middle School 7th – 8th Grade Social Studies
Mrs. Smigielski, Room 308, jsmigielski@sfxlg.org**

I. *What should students bring to Social Studies class?*

7th and 8th Grade: Assigned textbook(s), computer, blue, black and red pens, highlighter, homework (as assigned).

II. *What are the daily expectations of Social Studies class?*

Each student should enter the room in an orderly manner and proceed to his/her assigned seat. Textbook, and computers should be taken out of backpacks and placed on the student's desk.

Turning in homework on time, at the beginning of class is expected of each student (except in the case of absence, illness, etc).

Students should then check the homework board and copy any assignment into their assignment notebook.

Students should read posted objectives.

During class, active participation is expected of all students. During whole group instruction, students may be selected at random to answer questions. This will ensure that all students have a chance to participate in the learning. Students are expected to conduct themselves in a way that demonstrates that they are serious about their learning: **Sitting up straight, listening actively, asking questions, noting key information, and tracking the speaker (SLANT)**. Students are expected to be respectful of others at all times and in all classroom situations. Group work is important in Social Studies class; students should be prepared to work with any classmate and not just "friends."

As students pack up, care should be taken to clean up desktops and the floor under the desks. Students should move promptly at the bell and check to see they have all their belongings before moving to the next class.

III. *What is the grading policy for Social Studies class? Why is PowerSchool important?*

Students' grades in both 7th and 8th grade are calculated using a point system.

At the end of each trimester, a student's grade is determined by dividing that student's earned points by the total points possible for that trimester. Grades are updated at least every 2 weeks, and students are encouraged to monitor their own grades via PowerSchool. All assignments should reflect the student's best effort and be of the highest quality.

Late work: **Late means that the work is not available at the time it is supposed to be turned in.**

Students are expected to complete all assignments to the best of their abilities and turn them in on time. One point will be deducted for each day an assignment is late. If an assignment is not turned in, a zero will be put into PowerSchool until the assignment is submitted. Final grades will not be lower than 50%.

*Teachers can use their discretion based upon the circumstances for a late assignment.

IV. What is RATN, how do I complete it and will it be graded?

- RATN means, “read and take notes.” Most of the homework in Social Studies class is RATN. This homework is essential to understanding and participating in the next day’s lesson.
- Whenever you read a section of the text and take notes, those notes should be organized in an informal outline, using the heading and subheadings in the text as a guide.
- During class, you will “correct” your notes by highlighting items that are in both yours and the teacher’s notes, and adding any other information that you missed.
- Notes will be spot checked by the teacher as we progress and points will be given for completed RATN’s at the end of a Chapter.
- How is a RATN completed
 - A. Notes are labeled. Chapter and Section - example: 14-1, 14-2,...**
 - B. At the start of every section of a chapter Objectives are written out.**
 - C. Red Headings get Roman Numerals – notes are taken in bullet points**
 - D. Blue Headings get capital letters – notes are taken in bullet points.**
 - E. Points will be taken off if headings and labels are not easily seen.**

V. What do I do after class or for homework? It’s time to review and revise!

- *Complete assignments as given. If there is no written work, read over your notes.*
- When you revise and edit your notes, you actually learn and process the content you recorded. This is a form of studying.

VI. What does a student do if he/she is absent or misses Social Studies class for some other reason?

- If you are **absent**, it is **your responsibility** to obtain assignments, or notes from either a classmate, Google Homework calendar or the Weebly. If you need to meet with me, you must make an appointment.

VII. Middle School STP (Stop, Think, Plan) - A Positive approach to consequences

• Students who choose not to adhere to these classroom procedures will be given a warning. If the behavior continues during that same class, a STP will be issued. Any student who receives a warning for the same behavior multiple times in any given week may also be issued a STP .

1. Verbal Warning
2. If behavior continues: STP issued and sent home for parent signature.
3. If 2 STP’s are received in a 2 week period (Friday to Friday), the student will not be eligible to participate in the Fun Friday Reward.
4. 3 STP’s in a 2 week period – student will serve a detention Thursday after school, and lose Fun Friday.
5. 4+ STP’s in a 2 week period – Administration is notified and additional consequences are given.
6. Every two weeks each student starts with a clean slate.

Your parents can see this handout on my Weebly.

My Weebly address is **historysfx.weebly.com**