

## Sixth Grade Social Studies

The purpose of sixth grade Social Studies is to gain an understanding of the beginning of Western Civilization and to develop the interest and skill necessary to study any society. The year begins with an introduction to early humans, physical geography, mapping, and archeology. From there, we will be studying several ancient civilizations including, Mesopotamia, Greece, Rome, and Egypt.

The main goal is to have students understand the relationship between each civilization, how they expanded from one to the next, and how they connect to the present day. We will be discussing a variety of social sciences (economics, sociology, political science, etc.) by which any culture will be studied. In examining these sciences, students will be encouraged to express and explore their thoughts fully, share their opinions and personal knowledge with confidence, develop their organizational skills, and strive to do their best.

### Instructional Materials:

History Alive! The Ancient World (To be left at home unless told otherwise)

History Alive! The Ancient World interactive student notebook (students will need this in and out of school)

### Assessment Methods:

Engagement with the material and creative, evaluative thinking are an integral part of our work together this year. We will develop map-making skills, oral presentation skills, and study skills throughout the year. A special emphasis will be placed on writing, note-taking and reading skills. Throughout the course there will be announced reading quizzes, as well as unit ending exams. Current event assignments will be given periodically during the year using Edmodo and CNN student News. Students will complete many individual and group projects, developing their ability to work independently as well as cooperatively. We will use the Chromebook for many of these activities and we will spend a lot of time using Edmodo, Google apps, and other websites. Students will be evaluated based on their performance in these areas, and their in class participation. Active listening is as important a part of participation as verbal contribution.

### Grading:

An assignment's point value will be determined by the depth of the particular project. When an assignment is given, it will be made clear how many points it is worth. This includes tests and quizzes as well as regular assignments. A student's class grade will be calculated from four areas, tests, quizzes, homework and other assignments. Students total points earned divided by the total number of points will determine the quarter grade. All projects will be counted as a test, a quiz or both depending on the depth of the assignment. Positive participation in class will also improve your grade.

### Extra Help:

Extra Help is scheduled weekly in the students schedule and is also available at 11:15 or 2:06 every day as well as a 40 minute block each week. If advanced notice is given, extra help sessions after school are available.

### Homework:

Homework will be assigned consistently to reinforce class work and **unless otherwise specified**, will be due the next day. Homework is generally assigned a 5- point value. Current Events assignments will have a 10-point value. Homework that is not received will be given a grade of zero. Late homework will be accepted for a reduced grade, however if the assignment is not handed in within a week of its due date it will remain a zero. Any incomplete assignment should begin to be made up on the date it was missed at extra help. All missing homework should be made up before the end of the quarter.

**In keeping with the academic honesty policy, the work that any student brings to class should be his or her own, irrespective of whether it is being collected or graded.**

Online Responsibilities:

In this class most of the work will be completed and submitted online using several different websites. Here is a list of the different things we will use:

1. **Email:** It is important for you to check your email a few times during the night and if you email a teacher, please check to see if they responded.
2. **The portal:** All of your homework will be posted to the portal on fa.org so if you forget to write down your homework, check there first.
3. **The Social Studies Website:** This will be the best place to find any class materials: notes, review sheets, review games, etc. Information about the class as well as help videos (writing, Edmodo) are available on the website.  
(<https://sites.google.com/fa.org/6th-grade-social-studies/home>)
4. **Edmodo:** We will use Edmodo for online discussions, current event assignments, quizzes, tests and homework submission.
5. **TCI website:** With your textbook, you get an automatic subscription to their online materials. You will be able to read textbook pages (if you forget your book) and if you would like, you could submit workbook pages online instead of writing them (I would only use this if you forget your book in school)

Finally, if you have any questions or concerns about the school year please feel free to come to my room or contact me at your convenience, my door is always open!! If there are any questions about the coursework, school, or about life in general please ask!!! Please be aware that special interests or experiences are especially welcome!!

Mr. Cicciari  
(516) 629-4822  
[Phil\\_Cicciari@fa.org](mailto:Phil_Cicciari@fa.org)

### **Classroom conduct:**

In my class I expect that we will all follow the principles of the school and the Quaker traditions. In addition to those ideals the following will be my classroom rules:

- R:** Raise your hand and ask questions.
- E:** Effort- always do the best work you can.
- S:** Show up to class on time and prepared to work.
- P:** Participate in class discussions.
- E:** Extra help and extra credit are always available but you need to ask.
- C:** Cooperate, work together and listen not only to me but to each other.
- T:** Treat everyone the way you would like to be treated (no put-downs, dissing, etc.)