



**Sixth Grade Social Studies
Syllabus
Mrs. Kathy Fury**



Welcome to 6th Grade Social Studies! My name is Mrs. Fury and I am excited to be your teacher this year. Here is some basic information that will help you prepare for this school year.

What will I learn this year?

We will be studying the culture of the Western world, which includes the following places:

- Canada
- Mexico
- Central America
- The Caribbean
- South America
- Europe and Russia

As we study each of these places, we will learn about the history, economy, climate, resources, population, and relationship (impact) on other countries. We will work both individually and together to complete a variety of interactive, hands-on activities. We follow the State of Michigan Grade Level Content Expectations (GLCEs). If you would like to review these online, please visit the website: <http://www.michigan.gov/mde/>. We will be using the *Geography Alive!* series.

How will I be graded this year?

You will be graded on the following components:

- Interactive Student Notebook (more to come below...)
- End-of-Unit Assessments or Projects

You will be graded on a point system. Each project, test, or assignment will be worth a given number of points, which you will know about beforehand. For students interested in enhancing their knowledge (and grade!), extension opportunities will be available.

What is an Interactive Student Notebook?

The purpose of the Interactive Student Notebook is to enable you to be a creative, independent thinker and writer. Interactive notebooks will be used for class notes as well as other activities in which you will be asked to express your own ideas and process the information presented in this class. As you work with the notebook, it becomes a portfolio of your work, thoughts, and beliefs. This notebook is different from traditional notebooks due to the fact that it provides activities of a variety of learning styles, a mixture of the “Multiple Intelligences,” and tasks all geared to how our brains learn best.

How will the notebook be organized?

The interactive notebook is divided into units of study based upon the sixth grade curriculum. Each section will have a table of contents, a cover page, and then all of the activities and assignments for that unit. In the front of the notebook, you will have a homework checklist. This checklist is where a majority of the daily work is recorded and graded. By keeping it recorded in the front of the notebook, you will know if you have all the assignments. After a few weeks the checklist is totaled and recorded in the grade book.

How will I be graded?

Your notebook will be graded approximately twice a card marking (about every five weeks). The assessment will be a notebook quiz or a turn-in notebook evaluation. You should have all items (assignments, class work, notes, etc.) that the table of contents has listed, *even for the days when you were absent*. Not every single item will be graded. You will assess your own work before turning it in to me. Prior to major projects, you will be shown examples of outstanding work.

How do I know what's going on? What happens if I am absent?

If you are absent, it is *your responsibility* to see the crate for all your work. The crate holds copies of the notes, activities, and assignments. You are to *copy* the notes or mindmaps, *not* paste them inside. Then return all of the notes to the crate when finished. Attach all other activities and/or instructions in your notebook.

What if I lose my notebook?

If you lose your notebook, let me know *as soon as possible* so I can post it. Check all of your classes and the school lost and found in the attendance office. Bring loose-leaf paper or a spare notebook to class to use. **DO NOT JUST QUIT!** Since much of your grade is made up of the notebook and your grade will suffer quite a blow without the work, set up a time with me after a week of looking for the lost notebook and we can determine how to make up the work.

Parents/Guardians: How do you know how your child is doing in Social Studies?

With so many classes in middle school, it can be challenging to determine the progress of your child in an individual class. Students will be expected to share their notebook with you weekly. Sharing should consist of the child and interested party sitting down, reading, and discussing their work for a short amount of time. The emphasis is on the student initiating the conversation, though it would be helpful if you would inquire. (Note to Student: This is *not* an opportunity for your parents/guardians to do your work, but a time for you to share what is completed or receive assistance.)

You can check your grade for Social Studies at any time online using Power School. More information will be coming home soon through a district newsletter.

What supplies do I need?

You should bring the following supplies with you *every day*:

- Interactive Student Notebook
- Colored pencils
- Sharpened pencil with eraser
- Textbook (you will receive a copy of this later from the library)

What are the behavioral expectations and consequences of this class?

We will be using the STARR Positive Behavior System throughout the school. STARR stands for:

Safety- conduct yourself in a manner that promotes safety for yourself and others.

Tolerance- be open-minded, flexible and patient

Achievement- do your personal best

Respect- treat others the way you would like to be treated

Responsibility- be prepared to be successful, be timely

Stay tuned for individual classroom expectations following this system.

You are expected to be in class when the bell rings. If you are not, you will be marked tardy.

Questions or concerns?

For both students and parents/guardians, I am always happy to talk with you! Please don't wait until a problem has been going on to bring it to my attention. It is always better to address a potential issue immediately before it turns into a much bigger problem. Also, if there is anything special that you would like me to know about you or how you learn best, please tell me right away. If you need to contact me, please feel free to reach me by phone at (586) 445-4130 extension 2637 or by e-mail at kfury@scslakeview-k12.com.

Sincerely,

Kathy Fury (586) 445-4130 extension 2637

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