



## 7th Grade Social Studies Syllabus

### **Course Description:**

This is the first half of our two-year study of American history. We will begin with looking at Pre-Columbian America and European Exploration. Other topics that we will study this year include European Colonization, the American Revolution, the U.S. Constitution, The Early Republic, Westward Expansion, Antebellum America, and the Causes of the American Civil War. We will also have access to an online version of the textbook this year, access information will be given to students when available.

During additional course time, students will be focused on research and writing that engages them in cross-curricular conversations. Students will learn to synthesize information from multiple sources, develop their own perspectives in written essays, and design and deliver oral and visual presentations. Ultimately, this additional course time aims to equip students with the power to analyze and evaluate information in order to craft and communicate evidence-based arguments.

### **Grading Policy Per Trimester:**

Grades will be determined by a points-based grading system. Instead of a set percentage of grades being predetermined, the weight of the grades will be calculated based on the points earned in a marking period out of the total possible points that were assigned. This system rewards effort and keeps any one assignment from overpowering the rest in a given trimester.

### **Parent-Teacher Portal / PowerSchool:**

All graded assignments will be posted on PowerSchool. PowerSchool allows students and parents to keep track of a student's grade in real time, so it is imperative that both students and parents stay connected to the online portal. Not only will grades be posted on PowerSchool but comments may be attached to grades as well.

### **Homework Policy:**

Homework will be assigned on Google Classroom or via the online textbook, and must be submitted by the posted due date in order to receive full credit. As per the student/parent handbook after two days the missed assignment will no longer be accepted and the student will receive a zero. Homework missed during unexcused absences may not be made up. It is crucial that students complete their homework as it will make up the bulk of the points they can earn for the trimester. In addition to being posted in the classroom, homework will also be posted daily on The Bridges Academy HW site, which can be accessed at <https://sites.google.com/bridgesli.org/the-bridges-academy-hw/home>

### **Classwork:**

Most classwork will be assigned through Google Classroom, if a student is at lessons or absent it is their responsibility to complete the missed assignments. Students are not exempt from classwork or homework because they are at lessons. As per the student/parent handbook all assignments must be made up within two days or no credit will be given.

**Preparedness & Participation:**

Students must come to class with their Chromebooks charged everyday. In addition, students should also have their binder, paper, and a pen. Students will earn a daily participation grade which will be graded on a scale of 0-2.

0: student was late to class, unprepared, and did not contribute to the class discuss in a meaningful way.

1: student may have been unprepared or late to class, but contributed to the class discussion in a meaningful way.

2: student came to class on time, prepared to work, and contributed to the class discussion in a meaningful way.

The reason why a student received a certain score will be posted in the comments for that day on PowerSchool.

**Make-up Tests/Quizzes and Essay Rewrites:**

As per the student/parent handbook students are responsible for making up all quizzes/tests missed within two days of excused absences. After two days, no make-up quizzes/tests will be accepted and the student will receive a zero. Tests or quizzes that are missed due to unexcused absences, such as extended vacations, must be taken immediately upon return to school. As per the student/parent handbook students may only take make-up tests or quizzes before or after school. The only assignment that students may redo are essays, and they will be given a week from when the essay was handed back to complete the rewrite. I provide corrections, suggestions, and comments to all essays; this allows students to reflect on their work and make appropriate corrections. Writing is a skill that requires constant practice, which is why students are given the opportunity to rewrite their essays.

**Absences:**

It is the student's responsibility to find out what they missed in case of an absence, students are advised to reference Google Classroom and the hw website to find out what work they missed. Students are still responsible for all work assigned for that day, both classwork and homework.

**Extra Help:**

Extra help will be on Tuesday mornings from 7:30 - 8:00 and Wednesday afternoon from 3:00 - 3:30. If attending a morning extra help session please send me an email the day before so I can expect a student's attendance. If attending an afternoon extra help session please send in a note to the student's homeroom teacher the day of. Students will be required to sign-in with the teacher upon their arrival at extra help.

Please feel free to contact me with questions or concerns. You may reach me by calling the main office or sending me an email at [renee.iannuzzi@bridgesli.org](mailto:renee.iannuzzi@bridgesli.org)

I'm looking forward to a great year!

Mrs. Renee Iannuzzi