6th Grade Social Studies – Mrs. French



 **Welcome to 6th grade social studies! I am excited to be your teacher and hope you enjoy the 6th grade journey through the Western Hemisphere, Europe, and Russia. I have been teaching social studies for over 20 years and love sharing the most up to date information about our ever-changing world.**

**Course Description:**  The 6th grade social studies program is a full school year course focusing on the Western Hemisphere, Europe and Russia. It provides foundations in history, geography, government and economics. The first half of the school year involves work in two primary areas: *human and physical geography*. During the second half of the school year, students study the countries of the Western Hemisphere focusing on Canada and Latin America and the relationships these regions have with the United States. We end the year comparing the cultures and geography of Europe and Russia with the Western Hemisphere. The primary textbooks used in the class include *Introduction to Geography* and *The Americas* published by Holt, Rinehart and Winston. Hard copies of each text are available, however students will receive a code to access both texts online free of cost. Reading, writing, current events and project-based learning are utilized throughout the social studies curriculum. Technology is integrated on a weekly basis.

**Contact Information:**  Communication is an important part of success. Parent involvement is highly encouraged in the 6th grade. I utilize my classroom phone, website, and e-mail to keep parents updated on student progress and assignments. Progress reports are sent home every three weeks.

* **REMIND**-please see attached instructions on how to sign up for text or email updates for assignments, due dates, test dates, etc. It’s **FREE** and the most worthwhile tool I’ve used in years!
* **E-mail:** mfrench@cppschools.com **Phone:** 254-5131

 **Online textbook:** [www.go.hrw.com](http://www.go.hrw.com) **Test help:** [www.studystack.com](http://www.studystack.com)

 **Website:** <http://mmfrench.weebly.com> **Power School:** grade updates

**Suggested Supply List:** (1) three ring binder **or** folder with pockets, high quality #2 pencils (all assignments MUST be completed in pencil unless otherwise noted), (1) spiral notebook (70-100 page count) to be used and kept in the classroom as a social studies journal, a set of colored pencils, highlighter, glue sticks (we use them a lot!) and a **fine-tipped** black ink pen or marker (no permanent ink) for map outlining/labeling. *EARN FREE 6TH GRADE LOTTERY TICKETS by DONATING* ***ANY*** *of THESE ITEMS to OUR CLASSROOM*-bring them to Mrs. French to get your tickets.

**Grading System:**  All 6th grade students will be assessed on a 70/30 grading system. This means 70% of the grade will be based on assessments such as tests, quizzes, projects, reports, etc. The remaining 30% will be from a combination of daily work and homework.

**Late Papers:** It is important that assignments are collected when the original due date is given. Students who work hard to complete their assignments on time find it unfair and may begin to come to class unprepared if due dates continuously change for individual students. Late assignments that are considered daily work are accepted within a reasonable time of the due date; however, they are subject to a grading penalty. Late assessments/projects are 10% off for each day late.

**Academic Calendar:** The following is a list of monthly curriculum units that will be taught in 6th grade Social Studies.

**September-November**: Perspectives of Social Studies/Global Issues

**December**: Geography of the Western Hemisphere

**January**: United States and Canada

**February-March**: Latin America-Mexico, Central America, South America

**April-May**: Europe and Russia

**June**: Wrap-Up

**Social Studies Journal:** This is an interactive scrapbook that students will be “making” as we progress throughout the year. Most of the elements are things completed in class. However, there are times that students will need to bring it home in order to work on something or to help prepare for a test. Students are encouraged to take extra care of these because the journals are used as an assessment of the student’s growth in social studies concepts they are expected to know over the course of the school year.

**Absent Work:** If you are **absent** from school it is **your responsibility** **to check** the classroom **ABSENT WORK bin** (located next to the classroom door) and complete the work that you have missed. *Students have one day per day absent to make up the work*. Please feel free to see me if you have any further questions about a missed assignment. If you are going to be absent for an extended period of time you are encouraged to get an extended absence form from the office; in this case I will try my hardest to get your work together as soon as I can.

**Passes:** Hallway and homework passes are given to everyone at the start of each marking period. It is the student’s responsibility to either save them or use them. Unused passes can be turned in at the end of the marking period for 6th grade lottery tickets good for monthly drawings.

**Expectations**: Students are expected to be respectful of all staff/students and show their PANTHER PRIDE. Following the 6th grade rules and the guidelines outlined in the student handbook section of the planner should help students realize the expectations set forth at Mill Creek Middle School. Students not adhering to the classroom and/or school policies are referred to the Dean of Students for appropriate course of action.



 I look forward to a great school year with you! Feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns. Go Panthers!

 Mrs. Marianne French