Social Studies 7th Grade
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Course Description:
In 7th grade Social Studies we focus on the four main disciplines within the Social Sciences- Geography, History, Economics, and Civics. Students will receive scores for each of these disciplines throughout the year. We will have individual units for each. This will be reflected in the gradebook with some competencies having less scores earlier in the year. By the end of the year students will be able to apply all of the Social Sciences to our different units of study.

Within the first week, students will be completing activities to discover how they learn best. Our goal this year is to target how each student learns best. Knowing that, we can make their learning more personalized. We will also be pushing students to be more involved in their journey throughout Social Studies. Students will be keeping track of their progress and growth within each of the disciplines. Our hope is that students will know exactly where they can push themselves and where they may need more support. Please ask your student about their progress in each of the Social Sciences throughout the year. They should be able to tell you!

Homework:
Students may have homework because they need more time, they may not be using their time wisely in class, or missing work needs to be completed. Parents may ask their student to see google classroom. This is where a majority of their assignments will be. Google classroom will tell you if an assignment is late and has not been turned in.

7th Grade Social Studies Competencies:
This Social Studies course is designed through the following graduation competencies, Each competency has 2 Performance Indicators that will be represented in gradebook. For further information, please visit Thompsonschools.org:

- **Graduation Competency (History):** SSH.1: I can analyze key historical periods, patterns of change over time within and across nations and cultures, and how people view, construct, and interpret history.
- **Graduation Competency (Geography):** SSG.1: I can examine places and regions and the connections among them to develop spatial understanding, perspectives, and personal connections to the world.
- **Graduation Competency (Civics):** SSC.1: I can analyze and practice rights, roles, and responsibilities of citizens and the structure and function of governments.
- **Graduation Competency (Economics):** SSE.1: I can acquire the knowledge and economic reasoning skills to make sound financial decisions and understand the allocation of scarce resources in societies through the analysis of individual choices, market interaction, and public policy.

Current Events Socratic Seminars:
With having shorter class periods on Wednesdays, we took the opportunity to break up the week by dedicating every Wednesday to current events. One Wednesday we will research a current event topic idea. The following Wednesday the students will research a topic idea that was chosen from their ideas the previous week. They will be provided research questions to guide that research. The following Wednesday we will have a socratic seminar to discuss our research.
23 and Me Project:
After completing our units on the four Social Sciences students will be combining their knowledge to show us their mastery through a 23 and Me project. This project will have the students use all of the various skills that they have learned in each of their units about the social sciences. This project will require quite a bit of research. We wanted to let families know in advance because they will play an important role in this project. Families will be great sources to reference and will lead students in the right direction. If parents or guardians have any questions prior to the project feel free to contact Ms. Lind or Mr. Davies.

iPad Usage:
We are very excited to have 1:1 technology this year. Our hope is to limit the use of paper as much as possible (Ms. Lind hates killing so many trees). We will be using google classroom for a majority of the assignments given. This will hopefully eliminate the lockers full of random papers! Google classroom will be a great way for students to also see what they are missing if they are home sick as well. Assignment grades will be posted on google classroom and infinite campus. Students will receive emails whenever anything has been graded or an assignment has been posted.

Materials Used:
- Pencils (lots, because they will magically disappear)
- Other supplies may be determined by student projects, but nothing required.

Fall Semester Schedule:
**Week 1**: Welcome activities/class set-up

**Weeks 2**: Best way to learn activities

**Weeks 3-8**: History Unit
- 3: Primary and Secondary sources
- 4: Introduction to credibility
- 5: Credibility activities
- 6-7: Community Project
- 8-10: Museum Project

**Weeks 11-18**: Geography Unit
- 11: Reading Maps
- 12: 5 Themes of Geography
- 13: Geography Postcards
- 14: Push and Pull Factors
- 15: Reading about Refugee Crisis
- 16-17: Map Analysis activities
- 18: Writing Newspaper article (using the previous weeks activities)