



8th Grade Social Studies

Ms. Jen Chavez-Miller

j.chavez-miller@mountainmahogany.org
jcmiller24@mac.com

Course Description

8th Grade Social Studies is a year-long exploration of United States history and geography guided by Common Core Standards, NM Social Studies Standards, National Geography Standards, Global Competencies, and the following Mountain Mahogany core principles:

- Joy and Security
- Universal Empathy
- Differentiated Learning and Instruction
- Creative Thinking
- School Life as Real Life
- Environmental Awareness
- Media Literacy

Required Class Materials

Everyday, you are expected to come to class with the following materials:

1. Your accordion homework folder
2. Your agenda
3. Your Tool Box - a pencil bag or box that has pencils, color pencils, a glue stick, scissors, a canister pencil sharpener and a highlighter marker

You will also need the following materials that will remain in the classroom:

1. A 1-inch three-ring binder, filled with lined paper and 5 divider tabs
2. A composition notebook to use for your Interactive Notebook(IN)

Grading

Per the Mountain Mahogany grading policy, students' letter grades are determined by students' proficiency (70%) and engagement (30%).

PROFICIENCY GRADES demonstrate understanding of content and concepts in addition to application of skills and processes. Proficiency grades will include tests, quizzes, essays, projects, rubrics, and independent and collaborative work.

A = 90% - 100%
B = 80% - 89%
C = 70% - 79%
D = 60% - 69%

ENGAGEMENT GRADES demonstrate students' participation, readiness for class, effective work with peers, work completion and ability to meet classroom expectations. Engagement grades will include a daily engagement grade (being on time, ready for learning with materials), Interactive Notebook checks, independent and collaborative work, and homework (turned in on time, with name, and complete.)

Policies and Procedures

Classroom Expectations - During the first couple days of school, we will work together as a class to establish a list of class expectations. Students will keep a record of the expectations in their Interactive Notebooks.

Entering the classroom to be ready to learn

1. Enter the classroom calmly.
2. Sign your initials on the class list.
3. Check for handouts for the day's class.
4. Get your notebook on your way to your seat.
5. Promptly begin your daily RAP work.

Leaving the classroom at the end of class - when students are dismissed they will:

1. Record homework in Agenda and place any assignments in Homework Folder
2. Make sure trash is picked up from on and around table
3. Provide notebook to Notebook Manager
4. Push in their own chair
5. Make sure they have all of their own belongings
6. Exit the classroom calmly

Classroom Jobs - jobs will rotate on a weekly basis. Each table will have a person who does the following:

1. **Notebook Manager** - collects group's notebooks at the end of class; stacks notebooks neatly in class cubby with binder spine facing out
2. **Supply Manager** - collects a supply caddy for group; inventories and organizes supplies; returns caddy to shelf at the end of class
3. **Recycle Manager** - empties recycle basket in the recycle bin; places recycle basket back in the middle of the group's table

Restroom use during class - You should use the rest room at the start of class or upon dismissal. In the event you have a need during class, you should not leave the class when there are instructions being given or when content is being delivered.

Your belongings in the classroom - All students have been assigned a locker to use for personal and school belongings. Students should only bring materials needed for this class, and backpacks are not allowed in the classroom. Please organize your belongings as follows so that your materials are accessible and so we have a safe environment:

- Toolbox, binder, homework folder — when not in use on the table, please stack neatly on the ground under your chair
- Jackets/ sweaters should be hung on the back of your chair
- Water bottles should be kept on the floor under your chair

Food and drink in the classroom - Students are welcome to drink water during class. No other types of beverages are allowed in class. If students are in need of a quick snack, they may eat before class right outside of the classroom and must dispose of any trash upon entering. Food is not allowed to be consumed at the tables during class. Students have the opportunity to eat before school, during passing periods, at NUT break at 10:35, and at lunch at 1:05.

Class Meetings - When we have class meetings, students will be expected to do the following:

- circle up - move tables to the sides, move chairs into large circle
- be active listeners and engaged in the process through listening, focusing attention and participating

Attendance and Make-Up Work

When students are absent, they are responsible for making up classwork and homework in a timely fashion. When returning from an absence, students are expected to do the following:

- check the class folder for handouts/ assignments
- record any homework in agenda
- ask for information/ instructions from a classmate or from teacher *before* or *after* class
- complete work (including getting caught up in Interactive Notebook) and turn into class homework basket within 3 days or returning from an absence (more time can be provided only if student arranges extra time with the teacher)

When students do not meet class expectations, the following processes will take place:

1. Student will receive redirection or a reminder based on class expectations, procedures and policies.
2. Teacher will conference with student to determine how student can successfully meet class expectations, procedures and policies.
3. Teacher will contact parent via phone and/ or email to encourage support for student.
4. Teacher will request a conference with parent and student to strategize, as a team, on how to support student's success with meeting class expectations, procedures and policies.
5. Teacher will reach out to other the middle school team and/ or the Directorship for continued support with student.

Strategies that might be implemented to support students include, but are not limited to, the following:

- redirection, request
- movement break
- change seat within the classroom
- conference at the back of the room
- parallel send to other location on campus
- call for support from other faculty and staff
- conferencing with student
- conferencing with parent
- conferencing with middle school team and/ or Directorship
- supporting through the SAT (student assistance team) process
- behavioral contract

When you need support

Please feel free to come to me whenever you need support. This might be support with academics, with organization, with friends, and with other social issues that might arise.

Final thoughts from Ms. Jen

I am so lucky to work with amazing people who are my students. Thanks for being *you!*