

# 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Social Studies Syllabus

Taught by Shauna Hemler [hemlers@clintondaleschools.net](mailto:hemlers@clintondaleschools.net) 586-791-6302 xt. 1230  
Class Website: [www.mrshemlersclass.com](http://www.mrshemlersclass.com)

## Course Content:

The first semester of the sixth grade Social Studies curriculum introduces students to cultures of the Western World. Emphasis is placed on the contemporary geography of North America, South America, and Europe, as well as Africa. The second semester of the sixth grade Social Studies curriculum introduces students to cultures of the East, with emphasis on the contemporary geography of Asia, as well as the Amazon Rainforest and Antarctica. Students study the geography of each of these world regions; explore cultural and natural features that characterize each region; trace the movement of people, ideas, and products within the regions; and discover ways that each can be divided into sub-regions. Historical background is provided to enable students to understand how these regions developed from the past to the present. Differences in governments and economies are examined. The economy of each region and its role in the global economy is explored; special attention is paid to economic ties with the United States. Students study public issues of global significance in these regions and work to resolve them through analysis, discussion, and writing. Using a variety of media, students compile, analyze, and present geographic and economic data pertaining to the regions. They also consider what actions they and their country should pursue to promote the well-being of people who live in these regions.

## Instructional Strategies Used in This Course:

Reading and understanding the text using different reading strategies will be an integral part of this course. Quizzes and tests, along with projects will be used to assess the students' understanding of the information.

## Course Activities:

Along with the daily assignments and readings, students will be encouraged to find current event stories on the countries, continents, or areas that we are studying. Students are encouraged to bring them into class and share with their fellow peers. Students are also encouraged to watch a news show at least once a week and monitor how often a country, continent, or area that we are studying is mentioned during the news program. Discussion at home as well will help to build an appreciation for the study of Geography.

## Course Materials:

- Students will use textbooks in class only. Textbooks are available for take-home checkout on an as-needed basis.
- 2 sharpened pencils with erasers and/or black/blue pen.
- CMS agenda (provided).

Other materials such as crayons, markers, colored pencils, etc. are appreciated but not required. I have supplied various materials for each student for classroom use only. Please encourage your child to treat these materials respectfully so that he/she can use them all year.

## Social Studies Performance Standards:

### ***Students will have a basic understanding of***

- The World in Spatial Terms: Geographical Habits of Mind
- Places and Regions
- Physical Systems
- Human Systems
- Environmental and Society
- Global Issues Past and Present
- Civics and Government
- Purposes of Government
- Structure and Functions of Government
- Relationship of the United States to other nations and world affairs
- Economics
- The Market Economy
- The National Economy
- International Economy
- Public Discourse, Decision Making, and Citizen Involvement

## Course Assessment:

- Marking period grades will be based on tests, quizzes, and class work. Homework will only be assigned when students do not finish the coursework during the allotted time.
  - Assessments will be 70% of the grade
  - Class work will be 30% of the grade

## Grading Scale:

100-97% A+   96-94% A   93-90% A-   89-87% B+   86-84% B   83-80% B-   79-77% C+  
76-74% C   73-70% C-   69-67% D+   66-64% D   63-60% D-   59-0% F

## Technology Integration:

*Chromebooks will be utilized for:*

- Word processing (such as Microsoft Word and Google Docs)
- Presentation Tools and apps
- Internet Research

## Grades and Assignment Books:

Students will be given their student ID numbers at the beginning of the year. Each week on Wednesdays I will post grades in the class. Students are responsible for looking at their grades and keeping track of missing assignments. Assignments can be downloaded from my website and either printed and turned in, or emailed to me.

Please see the High Five Rules and the CMS Student Handbook for further information regarding my classroom management procedures. I look forward to sharing many wonderful learning experiences with your children this year!

## **Working Agreements**

### **6<sup>th</sup> Grade Social Studies**

We, Mrs. Hemler and the 6<sup>th</sup> grade Student Body, agree to the following:

1. **We will demonstrate mutual respect.**
  - We will respect people and ideas. This does not mean we will always agree.
2. **We will use skillful listening.**
  - We will make sure we understand what another is saying before we try to make ourselves understood.
3. **We will work together on an issue until most of us agree.**
  - We each have an equal voice. The group will work to understand all views.
4. **We will exhibit kindness, courtesy, and good manners at all times.**
  - We will use polite words, gestures, and looks. We are not here to make someone feel bad.
5. **We will be responsible for our learning and success.**
  - We will come prepared to class with our materials and positive attitude. If we cannot be positive, we will keep our thoughts to ourselves.
  - We will take responsibility for our own incomplete assignments.
6. **We will enjoy gum appropriately and privately.**
  - Gum is a food, not a distraction.
7. **We will finish personal grooming at home.**
  - We will leave all combs, brushes, lotion, and other grooming materials outside of the classroom.
8. **We will leave all electronic devices powered off.**
  - If there is an urgent matter we will use the classroom phone at an appropriate time.
9. **We will always follow The High Five rules.**
  - We will remember these rules no matter where we are whenever we are representing Clintondale Middle School.
10. **We will remember we are a community.**
  - We are here to learn, make friends, and grow as individuals. School will be an enjoyable and productive time for everyone. It is **our duty** to make sure everyone is having a positive experience.

Mrs. Hemler's Class  
6<sup>th</sup> Grade

[hemlers@clintondaleschools.net](mailto:hemlers@clintondaleschools.net)

586-791-6302 xt. 1230

## Policies and Procedures

### Homework Policy:

Reading students have a weekly reading requirement to complete the monthly Reading Calendar assignment, which is applied toward an assessment grade. Other homework is rarely given, with the exception of work not finished during regular class time. When homework is assigned, there is always a clear due date provided. Most assignments are posted on my website, [www.mrshemlersclass.com](http://www.mrshemlersclass.com) and are available to download. Students are encouraged to use the Internet to help with their studies and are always able to check out a textbook. Assignments that are not turned in on the designated due date are marked "Missing" and receive a zero in PowerSchool. When the assignment is turned in, the grade is changed accordingly. There are late penalties applied to projects, only. All work is due by the last week before report cards.

### Grade Policy:

Class work is weighted 30% of the grade and Assessments are weighted 70%. Students may speak to me about their grade any day during student work time, or before or after school. Parents can be provided regular updates through email or telephone, as well as checking Parent Portal.

### Discipline Policy:

1. Verbal warning to redirect behavior
2. Private discussion in the hallway and Reflection
3. Parent contact
4. Lunch Detention or Discipline Report to office depending on the inappropriate behavior

\*Some situations may arise where this is not followed depending on the severity of the incident.

## Discipline Policy: Mrs. Hemler's 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Class

We, Mrs. Hemler, the 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Student Body, and families agree to the following:

### Minor Rule Infractions

1. There will be a verbal warning for the first minor infraction.
2. There will be an individual conference and reflection time in the hallway for the second minor infraction.
3. The third minor infraction will result in a phone call home, and a possible lunch detention.
4. The fourth minor infraction will result in either a lunch detention or a Discipline Report to the office.
5. Any further rule infractions will require a parent meeting.

### Major Rule Infractions

1. A Discipline Report will be written for any major rule infraction.
2. A parent meeting will follow repeated rule infractions.

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We have read, discussed, and agree to the Classroom Working Agreements, Discipline Policy, and Classroom Procedures.

\_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_  
Student Signature

\_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_  
Parent Signature

# 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Reading Syllabus

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## Course Content:

Throughout the school year students will develop their skills in independent reading, narrative reading, and informational reading. Students will build stamina to read through text and utilize strategies to ensure comprehension. Students will learn to describe their thinking about the stories read and recognize the strategies they use to understand complicated pieces. Students will work in groups to experience collaborative learning from one another and carry responsibility to the learning of others and self. Whole-group reading will develop students' listening and critical thinking skills.

## Instructional Strategies Used in This Course:

Whole-group, small-group, and independent reading will be practiced daily. Students will also use websites and apps to practice and build skills. Quizzes and tests, along with projects will be used to assess the students' understanding of the information.

## Course Activities:

Along with the daily assignments and readings, students will be expected to read a weekly amount at home and complete a monthly Reading Calendar and project on a chapter book. Students may also access class-used websites and apps at home for further practice.

## Course Materials:

- Students will use class-supplied chapter books for independent and small-group reading work. These books will not go home unless checked out with Mrs. Hemler.
- Students need a chapter book for at-home reading each month.
- A three-ring binder
- Loose-leaf filler paper in the binder.
- 6 Tab dividers for the binder.
- 2 sharpened pencils with erasers and/or black/blue pen.
- CMS agenda (provided).

Other materials such as crayons, markers, colored pencils, etc. are appreciated but not required. I have supplied various materials for each student for classroom use only. Please encourage your child to treat these materials respectfully so that he/she can use them all year.

## Reading Performance Standards:

### ***Students will have a basic understanding of***

- Personal Stamina and Collaboration
- Literary Genres
- Literary Structures
- Key Reading Strategies and Processes
- Fluency and Comprehension
- Author's Purpose
- Vocabulary

## Course Assessment:

- Marking period grades will be based on tests, quizzes, projects, and class work. In addition to the monthly Reading Calendar, homework will only be assigned when students do not finish the coursework during the allotted time.
  - Assessments will be 70% of the grade
  - Class work will be 30% of the grade

## Grading Scale:

100-97% A+	96-94% A	93-90% A-	89-87% B+	86-84% B	83-80% B-	79-77% C+
76-74% C	73-70% C-	69-67% D+	66-64% D	63-60% D-	59-0% F	

## Technology Integration:

*Chromebooks will be utilized for:*

- Word processing (such as Microsoft Word and Google Docs)
- Newsela, ReadWorksDigital, MobyMax, and other literary websites
- Presentation Tools and apps
- Internet Research

## Grades and Assignment Books:

Students will be given their student ID numbers at the beginning of the year. Each week on Wednesdays I will post grades in the class. Students are responsible for looking at their grades and keeping track of missing assignments. Assignments can be downloaded from my website and either printed and turned in, or emailed to me.

Please see the High Five Rules and the CMS Student Handbook for further information regarding my classroom management procedures. I look forward to sharing many wonderful learning experiences with your children this year!