



Dear Parent,

I am delighted that your child is in my class as we begin the school year at Hale Middle School! We can look forward to many exciting and rewarding experiences as the year progresses. The following information will give you the general course content for the subjects of English (Language Arts) and Social Studies (History). Below are policies common to the two courses. Following is also information specific to the two courses.

**Behavior:**

Students are expected to be responsible for their own behavior. Classroom and school rules have been reviewed and all students have been made aware of the rewards and consequences for their behavior choices. Information about school-wide student behavior has also been provided in the "Binder Reminder." Parents will be contacted regarding behavior issues if the need arises. The sixth grade team, Dean, Counselor and / or Administrator may be involved in school related behavior issues if necessary.

**Supplies:**

Students are expected to have the following with them on a daily basis: Literature / Social Studies text books, Interactive Student Notebook, 3-ring binder (w/ sections for Language Arts and Social Studies), "warm-up" (spiral) notebook, an ample supply of notebook paper, blue or black pens, a red pen for correcting, and a highlighter. Additionally, students are to have a reading book with them at all times. A specific supply list was sent home on the first day of school. Please contact me directly with your questions.

**Grading:**

In Language Arts and Social Studies, students earn 'points' on completed assignments which are averaged in each of the weighted grade categories (see course specific information as follows). Students will find their class percentages falling into place on the "Class Grading Scale." On Progress and Report Cards, the "School's Grading Scale" will be used. (The system does not allow for the reporting of +’s and -’s.) Students will be made aware of their accurate class percentages.



	<b><u>Class Grading Scale:</u></b>	<b><u>School Grading Scale:</u></b>
Exceeds Competence:	A+ 97% - 100%	A 90% - 100%
	A 93% - 96%	
	A- 90% - 92%	
Above Expectations:	B+ 87% - 89%	B 80% - 89%
	B 83% - 86%	
	B- 80% - 82%	
Average:	C+ 77% - 79%	C 70% - 79%
	C 73% - 76%	
	C- 70% - 72%	
Below Average / Poor:	D+ 67% - 69%	D 60% - 69%
	D 63% - 66%	
	D- 60% - 62%	
Failing:	F 59% or below	F 59% or below



**Work Habits / Cooperation Marks:** ( Explanation of marks to follow)

E = Excellent                      S = Satisfactory                      U = Unsatisfactory

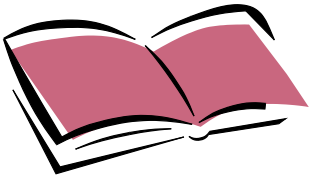
As the teacher, I have high expectations for my students, my students' parents, and myself. Success for students is high on everyone's list. We can achieve it by working together as a team; student, parent, and teacher. Please contact me if you have any questions or concerns.

**Ms. Seligson**

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# 6<sup>th</sup> Grade English (Language Arts)

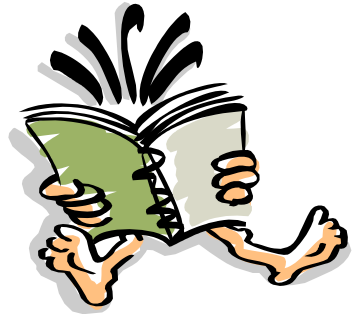
## Course Content and Grading Information

In *Language Arts* (English), the literature program includes the “into, through, and beyond” approach to reading and the language experience. The program provides practice in reading, speaking, writing, comprehension, listening, and critical thinking. Students will be exposed to a variety of genres throughout the year, including short stories, novels, poetry, non-fictional text, folktales and myths. We will be using the Prentice Hall Literature Textbook Series in addition to core literature novels. Our units of study include narrative, expository, response to literature, and persuasive.

The writing component includes instruction and practice in grammar, spelling, language mechanics, vocabulary development, and reference skills. The writing process will be utilized throughout the year. Students will apply these skills through written exercises, research reports, oral presentations, creative writing, as well as book reports.

### **All instruction is guided by the California Language Arts Content Standards.**

These academic standards will be described to students as they are covered. CA State Standards can be accessed at <http://www.cde.ca.gov>. Standards are posted in the classroom as well.



### **Grading:**

Language Arts grades will be equally composed of the following criteria:

- ❑ Literature -  
Reading comprehension, plot analysis, exams and quizzes on literary material, literary response and analysis in a variety of genre including poetry, reading strategies, response to literature, ...
- ❑ Writing -  
The writing process from draft, through edit, to final product, various writing strategies and applications; narrative writing, expository writing, persuasive writing, response to literature, ...
- ❑ Grammar -  
Language conventions; figurative language, parts of speech, mechanics, usage, spelling skills, word analysis, vocabulary development, Greek and Latin roots,...
- ❑ Spelling Skills / Greek & Latin Roots -  
The acquisition of skills through practice and drill, identify word parts and their foundational elements to understand individual meanings and how they work in combination to form the basis of our language.
- ❑ Book Reports -  
Plot analysis, listening and speaking strategies; combines elements of literature, writing, and grammar through student selected / teacher suggested / parent approved readings, ...



### **Work Habits will be determined as follows:**

- ❖ Assignments completed on time and with best effort / completed work average.
- ❖ Prepared daily; required materials brought to class.
- ❖ Diligent participation in class; effort to examine own work for improvement.
- ❖ Ready to work at the bell; on time and on task; keeps work area clean.

### **Cooperation will be determined as follows:**

- Respecting others' right to learn and the teacher's right to teach.
- Adheres to all classroom and school rules.
- Willingness to learn, participate, and make improvements.
- Maintains courteous relations with teachers and peers.
- Demonstrates the ability to work with others, help as needed, to set and achieve goals.



# 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Social Studies (History)



## Course Content and Grading Information

The goal of the *Social Studies* (Our World) program is to develop literate citizens with an understanding of and a respect for our system of values. Skills needed to make democratic decisions and to appreciate other cultures will be explored. The Sixth Grade Social Studies Program will focus upon the development of civilization from 6500 B.C.E., up through the fall of the Roman Empire. Geography is an essential component of the curriculum because it helps students develop spatial relationships, as well as gain an understanding of the world in which they live. Vocabulary development will be an essential element in comprehending the concepts of our historical study.

### **All instruction will be guided by the California Social Studies Content Standards.**



These academic standards will be described to students as they are covered. All students will be provided with a complete copy of the standards to keep in their binders. Standards are posted in the classroom as well. CA State Standards can also be accessed at <http://www.cde.ca.gov>.

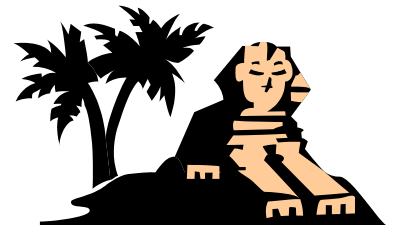
Throughout the year, a variety projects and long term assignments will be given. Ample time to complete these with written instructions and grading rubrics will be provided. Students will have tests and quizzes at regular intervals, in addition to daily class and homework assignments. Processing assignments and activities based upon lesson notes, work in the Interactive Notebook, vocabulary tests, quizzes and test are also key components of the social studies program.

### **Grading:**

Social Studies grades will be composed of the following criteria / weights:



- ❑ Chapter Tests / Unit Projects -35%
- ❑ Quizzes / Processing Assignments - 25%
- ❑ Completed Work - 25% (*Homework / Classwork*)
  - Interactive Notebook
  - Lesson Notes & Assignments
  - Activities (Individual & Group)
- ❑ Vocabulary - 15%



### **Work Habits will be determined as follows:**

- ❖ Assignments completed on time and with best effort / completed work average.
- ❖ Prepared daily; required materials brought to class.
- ❖ Diligent participation in class; effort to examine own work for improvement.
- ❖ Ready to work at the bell; on time and on task; keeps work area clean.

### **Cooperation will be determined as follows:**

- Respecting others' right to learn and the teacher's right to teach.
- Adheres to all classroom and school rules.
- Willingness to learn, participate, and make improvements.
- Maintains courteous relations with teachers and peers.
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