**Teacher:** Meghan Law

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**Course Content: Students at Stuart Middle School take Social Studies with the purpose of developing a deeper understanding of history, geography, economics, and civics.** The focus for sixth graders is Geography. Students will learn about the five themes of geography, with a heavy focus on how humans interact with their environment. We will also study mapping skills for the Western Hemisphere. Our text book will be *Geography Alive!* Students will complete the majority of class work in their social studies spiral that will remain in class. This will be sent home periodically for assignments or for your viewing requiring a parent signature before being returned to school the following day.

**Planner Use:** Students are required to complete their planner information at the beginning of each class at Stuart Middle School. Their daily classwork and homework are posted in every class, and the students are required to record both in their planners daily. Even if the students have no homework, they should be writing it down in their planner so that they and their parents are aware there is no homework in that particular class.

**Homework:** Homework will be assigned on an “as-needed” basis. Homework may include class-work that students need more time to work on, may be a project, or may be an assignment designed for practicing concepts outside of the classroom. Each day, learning targets, class work, and any potential homework will be written on the white board with due dates. Students are required to copy assignments and due dates into their student planner daily.

**Student Spiral Notebooks:** Students are required to have a spiral notebook. This notebook will be made into their organizational tool that will be used to take all notes and vocabulary, in class written assignments, and occasionally homework. Several assessments allow students to use their notebook for help, so it is crucial that students have and keep their spirals updated.

**Grading Policy:** Grades are based solely on demonstrated student progress and achievement of reasonable and Essential Learning Targets. Grades will not include student effort, participation, attitude, or other behaviors.

60% of a student’s grade will be determined by performance on assessments. Assessments are designed to test a student’s mastery of the material, and will test only Essential Learning Targets as determined by the school district. Assessments may take many forms, including pen and paper quizzes and exams, essays, or projects. Students will be allowed to retake any assessment for full credit if and only if the student has all practice work handed in.

40% of a student’s grade will be determined by practice assignments. Practice assignments can include coursework, warm-ups, homework, or small projects.

While the teacher will grade some assignments, occasionally assignments may be graded by other students to provide immediate feedback, correct misunderstandings promptly, and to reinforce the concepts being explored.

Each assignment (assessment or practice) will be out of 5 points, and graded on a 2.5-5 scale (see below) for each standard assessed. Students will be given a rubric detailing how each grade is obtained. Below is the grading scale for assignments, as well as the scale for the students’ overall grade in the class.

Assignments and Assessments: Overall grade in the class:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| A | 90%-100% |
| B | 80%-89% |
| C | 70-79% |
| D | 60-69% |
| F | 0-59% |

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| 5 | Advanced | A |
| 4.5 | Approaching Advanced | A |
| 4 | Proficient | B |
| 3.5 | Partially Proficient | C |
| 3 | Unsatisfactory | D |
| 2.5 | Unsatisfactory | F |
| 2 | Unsatisfactory | F |
| 0 | Missing | F |

Weekly progress can be tracked on Infinite Campus. If you are not able to access the grades on the database, please contact the office as soon as possible to double-check that all of your information is on file and correct.

**Late work policy:** Students will be provided two late 24 hour homework/classwork passes per class, per trimester. Students will receive the full credit earned for assignments turned in with a 24 hour late pass. Assignments handed in late without a 24 hour late pass will not be given credit. Assessments and/or long term assignments cannot be turned in using a 24 hour late pass. Missing practice assignments that are entered into the grade book will receive a zero.

**Absent policy:**

**During an excused absence:**

* Students will be allowed to make up work for full credit.
* Students will be given the number of days they were absent plus an additional day to get work completed and handed in before it is considered late.
* Projects that are assigned prior to a student’s absence are to be turned in on the due date or upon the student’s return date to school.

**During an unexcused absence:**

* Students will not receive credit for class work that was missed; however, the student is still expected to master the missed content and for completion of course work covered during the absence.

**Tardy policy:** Students are expected to be in their seat ready to work when class starts. Students that are not in their seat or that are not ready to work will be considered tardy. Students that are tardy will have consequences as outlined by the Stuart Discipline Matrix that can be located in the Student Handbook.

**Class Behavior expectations:** Students are required to adhere to the school expectations found in their student planner (pages 4-17), as well as model the Stuart Standards. Both the school expectations and the Stuart Standards have been presented to each student with a question and answer session. All students will be treated equally, fairly, and with respect when behavior reminders are necessary. If a student chooses to engage in behavior that does not uphold the Stuart Standards, discipline will follow the discipline matrix found in the student planner.

If a student chooses to be disruptive in my classroom, the student will initially receive a warning to remind them to model Stuart Middle School expectations. If the behavior continues, the student will receive a reflection form and contact will be made home. If the student continues to engage in poor behavior, a teacher appointed consequence will result. Once again, the student/teacher will call the parent(s). The final action will result in a referral being sent to the office for further disciplinary action.

**Communication with parents:** Communication between parents/guardians and teachers is a vital component in your student’s education. Please check your student’s planner each day to find a list of topics and assignments from each class. You may occasionally receive comments from me in a variety of ways. Please feel free to call or email me anytime at [mlaw@sd27j.org](mailto:mlaw@sd27j.org) or 720-685-5551 (calls made during school hours will be forwarded to voicemail). All communication will be responded to within 24 hours.

Thank you for taking the time to review the course syllabus. I look forward to working with the students and the parents this school year!

Meghan Law