



SOCIAL STUDIES

MR. MARDON

2015-2016

How is it that we are so fortunate to live in a nation that ranks as one of the wealthiest, most powerful, and most democratic in the world? Has the United States of America always held this type of status or did this develop over time? What about the future? Will we continue to be a world power or will we crumble as have all the great and impressive empires of history? Who has participated in this history? Who participates in our present? Who will participate in our future?

Do you notice that I'm not suggesting any answers? Are you aware that these are questions? Do you sense that perhaps this class is going to focus on generating the philosophical, multiply-answerable questions? Good!! Because *that* is what this class *is* about. While we will confront issues of power and people I will be pushing you to consider your role, to ask questions, to be engaged, and to develop your own opinions and thoughts about what we do. The history of our country, at least the first 100 years that we will study, is one of becoming a nation; forging a powerful but restricted government, establishing and debating the idea of equality, expanding our boundaries while invading others, and trying to settle entrenched differences. It is a history of paradigms and conflict and it is the story of how we have ended up in a slightly rural area annexed to a suburb of one of the nation's best cities that didn't even exist during the time we will discuss. Oh, and by the end of the school year, you will understand exactly what you just read!

Expect to have questions and to ask them. ***Expect*** me to have questions and ***expect*** yourself to tackle them. ***Expect*** me to have ridiculously high expectations of you.

Do ***not*** get lazy. Do ***not*** stop trying. Do ***not*** try to escape learning. ***I*** will not let you!

GENERAL POLICIES

- Ask questions
- Engage fully
- Integrate new information
- Open your mind to diverse views
- Utilize what you learned

LATE WORK

Work is due when I check it and I expect you to be in the habit of completing your work on time. If you are missing work I will expect you to attend lunch study until you are caught up. I will accept **all** late work.

TARDIES

Tardies are a distraction to the success of you, your classmates, and me as a teacher. I track all tardies, will report them out to your family, and, when needed, will assign you **lunch detention**.

ISN ORGANIZATION

Your Interactive Student Notebook (ISN) will be used every single day. You are expected to keep it organized with assignments on the correct pages and orderly. I do not check assignments that are not glued into your ISN.

ABSENCES

If you are absent from class for any period of time, it is your responsibility to figure out what you missed. Check the **big green board** with all assignments to see what you have missed.

If you are absent:

Check the **Green Assignment Board**

Retrieve assignments from the crate

Check with a classmate for clarification

If you're still confused, please don't hesitate to ask me