

Welcome to 7th Grade Social Studies at AWESOME River bend Middle School!

We WILL have a great year! In my classroom, we will examine the past and study important events, people, and places. The study of history is VERY important in our ever-changing world. You will also learn reading and writing skills which will benefit you throughout the remainder of your school years and beyond.

First, however, we will need to discuss some rules that need to be followed here at RBMS and in my classroom.

***STATEMENT: EVERY student WILL be treated fair regardless of race, gender or academic ability! I DO NOT have “favorite students” in my classroom! If you need extra help I WILL be here for you! If you put forth effort you will succeed!**

Classroom Rules and some RBMS Rules:

1. Disruptions in the classroom during learning time will NOT be tolerated. This means when we are working on an activity or having discussions, you will act accordingly. It is not fair to the person speaking if you interrupt them. Think of how they would feel!
2. WE will respect EVERYONE in the classroom! We will not laugh, make fun of, or harass anyone at any time in the classroom or on school property.
3. No Bullying ANYTIME or ANYPLACE on campus PERIOD! It has been a proven fact that bullying will negatively affect a victim. In some cases, bullying has been known to cause serious lifelong damage to those effected. Any bullying will be immediately reported to school administration!
4. Cursing of ANY nature is NOT TOLERATED! We are smart individuals who know how to speak properly. If I hear any cursing I will call home and most likely assign a detention depending on the severity or number of times. If you swear at me or ANY adult on campus you will be removed from the classroom and referred to administration.
5. Please do not shout answers out or speak without permission. If you want to contribute that is AWESOME but only ONE person can speak at any given moment.
6. You are required to remain in your seats always unless directed by me. There will be many times we will be moving around the classroom but ONLY when I am directing an activity or ask you to move somewhere. Please make sure you sharpen your pencils when you walk in the classroom.

7. Unless approved by me, there will be no eating, chewing gum, candy or soda/juice in the classroom! We are fortunate to have a brand-new school and we must keep it clean! You may bring a water bottle in the classroom.
8. There will be times in class when we will use cell phones for educational purposes. Aside from this, you need to have your cell phone in your locker or pocket on SILENT mode or OFF! You can use your phone with ear buds during lunch time. It is not fair to me or other classmates when someone else is playing games or texting during class. If I catch you I will hold your phone until the end of the school day! If I am continuously catching you on your phone I will eventually refer you to the office where they will hold the phone until your parent can pick it up! Please note: RBMS cell phone policy is very fair considering most middle schools do not allow any cell phone use.
9. Cheating is not tolerated here at RBMS! If caught, you will receive a 0 for that assignment and your parent will be notified. Remember, when you use someone else's work for your own that is plagiarism (stealing). This also falls under the cheating category.
10. Please try to bring only the materials you will need for my class! It is not fair to everyone else when class space is compromised because of book bags or extra items all over the floor/desks.

Other SERIOUS policies to know

*You are NOT allowed to write on desks, walls, furniture or destroy any property in my classroom. Again, this is a brand-new school...let's keep it nice! Any students who defaces or damages property will make it right and of course, be referred to the office.

*Fighting/Horseplay is NEVER tolerated in the classroom or anywhere on RBMS property. Remember, you are here to learn! If you harm anyone in the classroom whether intentionally or through horseplay you will be removed and receive an administrative referral. Again, this disrupts learning and will affect the ENTIRE class!

Please, please, please...KEEP YOUR HANDS TO YOURSELF!

*Stealing is not tolerated in the classroom or anywhere here. This is a life lesson that you all should know well! If you steal anything it is an automatic referral.

*Weapons ARE NOT permitted anywhere on campus! I do not need to teach you about this. Any weapon brought to school will immediately be taken and you will be sent to the office with a referral. Also, the Raleigh police may be notified depending on what it is. Remember, a rubber band and paper clip is considered a weapon when used in a harmful way.

Grading and Academic Performance in Mr. Z's Classroom

R.B.M.S. Grading Scale

A= 90-100

B= 80-89

C= 70-79

D= 60-69

F= 0-59

I= Incomplete

I would like to start by saying if you simply try and put forth effort, it will be impossible to fail! Students who fail are students who do not want to work. There is a difference between not knowing how to do the work and simply not wanting to do it! If you are struggling please come and see me! I will spend time with you and guide to all the resources you will need to get "back on track!" If you do not do well on a test/quiz/project/activity it IS NOT the end of the world! There are opportunities to do better. However, with that being said, it does not mean that you can fail 2 or 3 quarters and expect to pass in the last two months of school! Again, please contact me if you need help! I am here for YOU! It is my job!

***EVERYTHING we do in the classroom and home is valuable and WILL count as a grade. We will never do work for nothing!**

Grade Breakdown Percentage

Bell work/Exit Tickets/Homework: 10%

Class Activities: 10%

Stations/Projects: 40%

Tests/Quizzes: 40%

Homework: You are responsible for completing your OWN homework assignments! They will help you understand what we have learned in class. I will post homework assignments on the whiteboard in the classroom with the due date and have it posted on both our team (Trailblazers) and my own web site! Basically, there will be NO EXCUSE for you not to complete your homework assignments! I have labeled bins for you to deposit your completed homework when you come into the room. I will be creating a homework check-off sheet for both you and I to keep track of completed HW assignments. You will have 5 days from the posted assignment on POWERSCHOOL to turn in your homework. You will lose 10 points each day it is late. If you turn it in 5 days after the posted date the best you will earn is a 50. However, it is still MUCH better than a 0.

Classroom Activities: You are REQUIRED to complete all assigned classroom activities! If not, it will affect your grade negatively. What we do in the classroom will help you with homework and tests/quizzes.

Stations/Projects: There will be times we will have station work and projects throughout the year. These will count as assessments and be 40% of your grade. Failure to complete these will have a devastating effect on your overall grade! I will always post directions in the classroom and both our websites!

Tests/Quizzes: We will have a formal test/quiz at the end of every unit we study. I will ALWAYS give you plenty of notice to prepare. This information will be posted in the classroom and on the websites. In some cases, I will offer tutoring one day after school before the test/quiz. I also reserve the right to give a “pop quiz” (without notice) at any time depending on the situation.

Extra Credit: There MAY be a few times throughout the school year when I decide to give extra credit. This is optional and is not required. Please...DO NOT ask me for extra credit if you fail an assignment or test. As I stated earlier, there will be other opportunities for you to bring your grade up.

***IF YOU ARE ABSENT:** It is **YOUR** responsibility to make-up your missing work! I will have bins in the back of the room with any paper copies you may need of past work. These bins are labeled! Also, you can always refer to both my website and our team (Trailblazer) website to see what you missed. DO NOT disrupt class to tell me you missed work and need to make it up. If you need to talk to me it must be AFTER class.

***If you know you will be out for an extended amount of time due to vacation, illness etc. please let me know so I can give you the necessary materials you need.**

*****Now, let's all have a Tigeriffic year at River Bend Middle School! I am here to help guide you to GREATNESS!! What you do this year will affect the remainder of your time in middle and high school. Make it an AWESOME experience for yourself! You are smart and deserve a happy and prosperous future! Please feel free to contact me anytime whether at school or via email. GO TIGERS!!!**

