

Name: _____

Block: AM PM

September 5, 2019

Dear Parent/Guardian and Student,

Welcome to seventh grade Social Studies and Language Arts in Room 701. We hope you had an enjoyable summer with friends and family.

This year, I (Ms. Carmen) will be transitioning from Cal Young Middle School to Pittsburgh, PA. My husband got an amazing job with Uber to create driverless cars. While I am excited for this new adventure, I am saddened to leave the Cal Young family. I will be here for the first two weeks to get the students ready to learn until Ms. Steinbaugh arrives.

I (Ms. Steinbaugh) have spent the last fifteen years teaching in Springfield, and taught in Arizona for another ten years before that. Working with middle school students is my favorite, because there is never a dull moment. I am very excited about the opportunity to join the Cal Young family, and can't wait to make the move! I look forward to meeting you all at Open House on September 26th.

This year, in Social Studies, we will explore world geography, and the Medieval World to the European Renaissance. Through our exploration, we will learn about the legacy of the Roman Empire, Islam and Muslim contributions, Meso-America, African kingdoms and current events, significant inventions from China, and compare the warrior class (Samurai) of Japan to Europe's feudal system. We end our year with contributions made during the Renaissance, influence of the Roman Catholic Church in Europe, Protestantism, and examine the Age of Exploration. We know it's a lot to cover in one year, but we will accomplish it.

Language Arts will have a strong focus on reading, writing, and research. We will try to integrate this with the concepts being taught in Social Studies. We will also be using the Book Love program to help students continue to develop an excitement for independent reading.

We will approach this year from a historical perspective that is as objective as possible.

Students in this class will be evaluated based on four components:

- Assignments – 50%
- Quizzes and Projects – 20%
- Check-ins (written) – 20%
- Participation and Preparedness– 10%

Assignments:

YOU ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR YOUR OWN SUCCESS!! All assignments done in class or as homework should be turned in on time. If you are absent, check my website for missed work and the "I was absent" basket for worksheets. Always email me if you have any questions.

Late Policy for Assignments:

If work is turned in late, there is a two-week window before it will no longer be accepted for credit, unless prior arrangements for turning in the assignment on a later date were made well in advance of the due date.

Check-ins: Regular check-in tasks are to evaluate student understanding of the content. There will be different types of tasks depending on the topic. We may write a journal entry, respond to a prompt, or focus on an essential question to demonstrate that students understand enough of the concept being taught. This process will help provide feedback to the teacher and to students.

Participation and Preparedness:

Be ready to learn. Students are expected to be in their seat ready to learn BEFORE the tardy bell rings, or they may be marked tardy. A well-prepared student will come to class with their Agenda, assignments, a charged iPad, ear buds (for iPad), notebook paper, sharpened pencils, ruler, and colored pencils. In addition, students are well prepared for classroom activities and discussions, and take part in small and whole group discussions.

Teacher Blog

Ms. Steinbaugh will be creating and maintaining a website regularly with important information. The goal is to post assignments, due dates, and communicate what we are learning in class daily. You will be able to find the blog under the staff link on the Cal Young website.

Google Classroom

Ms. Steinbaugh will be using Google Classroom. This program allows the teacher to create and distribute assignments, send announcements, share links and resources, and quickly see who has or hasn't completed work.

StudentVue/ParentVue

We will post online grades. Online grades will be updated at least every two weeks. The system is a great way for families to monitor academic progress.

We look forward to working with you and your 7th grader this year. If you have any questions or concerns, email is the quickest form of communication. You may also call the school at 541- 790-6471.

Sincerely,

Carmen Duato

duato_c@4j.lane.edu)

Elly Steinbaugh

steinbaugh_e@4j.lane.edu

Student Signature _____ Parent/Guardian Signature _____