

Ms. Pratt's 6th Grade Social Science Syllabus

VAIL RANCH MIDDLE SCHOOL A California Distinguished School and Gold Ribbon School 33340 Camino Piedra Rojo Temecula CA 92592

Dear 6th Grade Student Families:

I am delighted to be a part of your sixth grade experience this year. Middle School is a new and rewarding time in your child's life, an exciting time of discoveries and new responsibilities. It is from this point on that students make decisions and develop habits that will affect the rest of their lives.

Studying ancient civilizations is one of the most fascinating areas of all human history for the precise reason that it is human history. As we learn more about those who have come before us, we understand more about ourselves in this modern age and how we have come to be. From empires to city-states, the historical civilizations from around the world have each made a contribution to the development of mankind.

When we think of the major innovations that have propelled society forward: writing, the wheel, fire, brass, bronze, iron, electricity, indoor plumbing, and so forth, it is important to remember that each of these was a significant

technological innovation, discovered hundreds or even thousands of years ago.

You will build your skills as a researcher and writer and be able to communicate your ideas effectively. We will also spend time building your vocabulary and technology skills. Discussion, both speaking and listening, as well as working in collaboration with others will play a large role in class and help to prepare you for the college and career world.

Sincerely,
Ms. Pratt

ACADEMIC EXPECTATIONS Pyramid of Success



"Success is peace of mind which is a direct result of self-satisfaction in knowing you did your best to become the best that you are capable of becoming."

John R. Wooden, Head Basketball coach, Emeritus, UCLA

Absences

- Determine missing work through website calendar or classroom planner
- An assignment given prior to a student being absent is due upon return
- Make up work should be turned in within two days of the absence. Assignments turned in after two days will be noted as missing/zero until turned in.

Academic Honesty: Cheating is defined but not limited to the following: using unauthorized notes during a test, sharing or giving answers on any assignment, assessments, plagiarism, etc.

Assignments/Assessments

- 20% Formative Mini- Assessments: notes, activities, rough drafts
- 80% Summative Assessments: quizzes, summaries, projects
- *Assignments below a "C" may require to be redone*

Assessments

- Quizzes must be retaken **within two weeks** of the end of the unit of study
- Unit exams must be retaken **within one week** of the return of the exam
- Re-takes may be taken with the administration, on designated days.
- Steps to re-take a formal assessment:
 1. Acquire a retake form from Ms. Pratt
 2. Thoughtfully completed all work leading up to the assessment – TEACHER REVIEW required
 3. Parent Signature on the re-take form
- **Semester Finals may not be re-taken**

Extra Credit is *not available*, which places the value on daily work and learning the content as it is being studied.

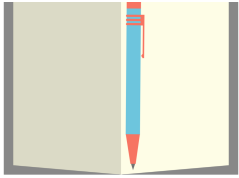
Homework

"The best inheritance a parent can give his children is a few minutes of his time each day." O.A. Battista

- Posted on the daily agenda, Website calendar, classroom planner
- Supports current or prior lessons with no longer than 20 minutes per subject matter.

Late Assignments

- accepted until the end of that particular unit of study.



Notebooks

- Notebooks are a journal and reflect the journey of learning and will show the skills and understanding of the topics of study
- Notebooks should be neat and organized inside and out as if it were a library book

BEHAVIOR EXPECTATIONS

Bathroom Usage

- Must obtain permission
- May not leave during instruction
- Sign in and out properly in classroom log
- Must use a bathroom pass

Electronic Devices

- Academic use only as is pertaining to the current unit of study
- An infraction of use could result in a loss of electronic device privileges in all classes or district as defined by district policy.

Entering Class

- Be on time
- Enter quietly (museum voices)
- Write in planner daily
- Begin daily reflection (5 minutes)

During Class

- Be kind and respectful of students and staff with your words and actions
- Be prepared, attentive, and on task



- Reference directions as needed
- Remain seated during instruction and during group work
- Follow group work protocol at all times

Exiting Class

- Last 5 minutes: reflect on daily work
- Pack up only when instructed
- When dismissed, exit quietly (museum voices)

Food and Drink

- Water only

BEHAVIOR GUIDANCE

- Student analysis and conference
- Break/Lunch/After School detention
- Call or Email family
- Parent/ Teacher /Student Conference
- Administrative referral

COMMUNICATION

Email rpratt@tvusd.k12.ca.us

Phone 951-302-5188 (4304)

REMIND text to 81010, message @mspratt6

Website

GRADE NOTIFICATION

Infinite Campus

- 24-hour live access to grades is available at <http://vrms.tvusd.k12.ca.us> click on Infinite Campus for parents or download the app
- Set your notifications for missing assignments or a grade below family expectations, absences or tardies

RESOURCES

Classroom Required

- TCI - History Alive! The Ancient World. (Classroom copy)
- ISN: Interpretive Student Notebook

Classroom Recommended

- A spiral-bound notebook, composition notebook or homemade notebook as this is where all our notes will be contained.
- writing utensils, highlighter(s), colored pencils, glue stick, scissors

For Parents

- *A Mind at a Time* by Mel Levine
- *Parenting Teens With Love and Logic* by Jim Fay
- *The Middle School Survival Guide* by Arleen Erlbach



Reference Home Library

- *Write Source 2000, A Guide to Thinking*
- *Writing and Learning by Houghton Mifflin*
- *Roget's College Thesaurus*, a dictionary with sentence examples and pictures
- Desk Top Encyclopedia, World Atlas/Historical Atlas,
- *The New York Public Library Kids Guide to Research*
- *The Story of the World HISTORY OF THE WORLD FOR THE CLASSICAL CHILD Volume 1: Ancient Times: From the Earliest Nomads to the Last Roman Emperor*

References Online

- *Kids research engine and directories*
<http://yahooligans.yahoo.com/>
- *Search Tools Just for Kids*
<http://tekmom.com/search/index.html>
- *Web Search for Kids by Librarians*
<http://sunsite.berkeley.edu/KidsClick!/>