

# 6TH GRADE SOCIAL STUDIES & TECHNOLOGY CLASS



## Welcome to Mrs. Smith's Classroom

### CONTACT INFORMATION

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Classroom Website: [www.aprilsmith.org](http://www.aprilsmith.org)

#### To Parents:

I do have classes all day and my planning time is usually booked the day before. If you call me during the day and want to talk by phone, please allow two business days for a return phone call. If you do not mind me calling after school hours, please let our office personnel know and I will gladly call you after school hours the same day.

If you need to schedule a conference, this can also be set up by emailing me, filling out a contact form on the website, or by contacting the school. Teacher - Parent conferences will be set up for 7:10 - 7:30 A.M., Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays. When you email or call, please let me know what day you prefer. If you need a time other than this, we can work something out.

#### The Class App:

My classroom website is available as an app on Google Play. It is called Mrs. Smiths Classroom. You can also download it or use a QR scanner by going directly to the website and clicking on the Classroom App link on the Planner page.

#### Remind 101:

If you would like to receive text messages about class or school announcements, you can fill out the Remind 101 form or complete the Remind 101 Signup on the classroom website: [aprilsmith.org](http://aprilsmith.org).

### SUPPLIES FOR CLASS

If you have not, please pay the \$30 classroom donation. This donation helps us to purchase the supplies and technology we use to teach. It is very appreciated!

Welcome to Mrs. Smith's Online Social Studies Classroom. Your entire social studies course - your readings, assignments, projects, and tests are all online on this website. The following are the supplies you need for this class:

- Planner
- 2 Pencils
- Lesson Chronicles
- Notebook Paper
- Colored Pencils
- Highlighters

## CLASS STRUCTURE

The class is categorized by unit, topic, and lessons.

### Units:

- Units are the overall subject matter or time period.

### Topics:

- Topics are the main ideas in each unit.

### Lessons:

- Lessons cover the important details in each topic.

## ASSIGNMENTS AND GRADING

### Participation & Work Ethic Grade:

10 Points

Weekly Grade

Each week students will receive a grade for participation and work ethic. Everyday the student is graded on the list. If one of the expectations are not met during the week, 1 point of the 10 point work ethic grade is deducted.

Expectations	
Attendance (Unexcused or frequent absences)	Showing Respectfulness Towards the Teacher
Participating in Class Activities	Showing Respectfulness Towards Classmates
Showing Cooperation	Following Directions
Remaining on Task	Avoiding Disruptive Behaviors
Being Prepared for Class	Having a Positive Attitude
Talking Only at Appropriate Times	Giving Your Best Effort
Following Dress Code	Taking Care of Class Materials

### Lesson Chronicles:

25 Points

Weekly Grade

Lesson Chronicles are completed and corrected in class. They are graded at the end of each topic for accuracy. The time it takes to cover one topic varies. It usually is about 1 week.

### Topic Checks:

50 Points

Weekly Grade

Topic checks are quizzes after each topic. Topic checks focus on the essential questions, vocabulary, and maps in each lesson of the topic. Topic checks are the day after we complete a topic. Usually we have one each week.

### Projects:

75 Points

Monthly Grade

Projects vary greatly. Some are done individually and others in small groups. Most topics are done in class, but a few may require work at home. Some involve creating with technology. Others will be constructed by hand. Most projects will span the length of the unit and are due at the end of the unit. Units time lengths vary, but most units take 3 weeks to complete.

**Unit Tests:****100 Points****Monthly Grade**

Unit Tests are tests that cover a whole unit. Students will be required to study for these tests. The unit tests are the day after we complete a unit. We usually take a unit test every 3 weeks.

**Homework:****10 Points****Weekly Grade**

You will have homework every night for this class. Your homework is to share what you learn in Social Studies with your family and to help the family with one chore every night! One component of Social Studies is learning about your place in this world. You are a part of a family unit. Your homework is designed to help you understand that communication and responsibility are important in maintaining a good, healthy relationship with your family. On Friday, you need to have your parent or guardian sign your Lesson Chronicles on the Grade Tracker Page acknowledging they have seen your work and grades. You will, of course, have to study for the weekly topic check and the unit tests that come about every three weeks.

**SOCIAL STUDIES CONTENT AND SKILLS**

In this class, you will learn social studies and literacy content and skills using a variety of instructional materials and tools.

**Social Studies Content:**

American History from Industrialization to the Present (1877 - Today)

**Social Studies Skills:**

Study Skills, Test Taking Skills, Technology Skills, Critical Thinking Skills, Decision Making Skills, and Interpersonal and Social Skills

**Literacy Skills:**

Central Ideas, citing evidence, chronological order and sequencing, chain of events, point of view, purpose, research, making predictions, collecting and gathering information, organizing, categorizing, and arranging information, analysis, figurative language, literary devices, persuasive writing, inferencing and drawing conclusions, determining meaning, comparing and contrasting, cause and effect, determine mood or motive, identifying audience, following directions, and processing information in different forms

**Instructional Materials and Tools:**

Technology (computers, internet, software, apple tv, etc.); non-fiction texts, informational texts, consumer materials, graphs, charts, graphs organizers, public documents, primary and secondary documents, maps, photographs, political cartoons, pop culture, imagination, and creativity

All of your lessons are online modules on our classroom learning platform [www.aprilsmith.org](http://www.aprilsmith.org). Though these lessons are online, you will learn using a variety of strategies.

**Instructional Strategies:**

- Online Learning Modules
- Surveys and Polls
- Gaming
- Quests
- Live Action Role Play (LARP)
- Online Simulations
- Online Interactives
- Virtual Field Trips
- Chronicling
- Small Group Collaboration
- Projects

## RULES AND DISCIPLINE POLICY

### Rules

The school rules and classroom rules will be discussed in detail with all students on the first day of school and will be practiced throughout the year. Students will follow the rules outlined in the St. Clair County Code of Conduct. In addition, students should practice the behaviors outlined in the Social Studies Work Ethic Grade.

### The Most Important Rule of the Classroom

I have a name for the most important rule of the classroom. This rule is called "RESPECT THE FAMILY!" You never go against the family! Your classmates are your family when you are at school. Treat others with the same respect that you expect from them.

### Discipline Policy:

The discipline policy will be discussed in detail with all students on the first day of school and will be enforced throughout the year. Students who choose not to follow the classroom rules will have to sign the conduct book and receive the following consequences:

- First Offense: Warning
- Second Offense: No Snack
- Third Offense: Silent Lunch
- Fourth Offense: Three Days of Silent Lunch and Teacher/Student conference - Create a Behavior Plan and Sign Behavior Contract
- Fifth Offense: P.E. Detention/Parent Phone Call - Inform the Parent of the Behavior Plan and Contract and that the student violated the terms of the agreement
- Sixth Offense: Parent Conference - Create a Behavior Plan and Contract with the student and the parents
- Seventh Offense: Referral to Mrs. Glover - Mrs. Glover will contact the parent to inform them the student has violated the terms set up in the behavior contract
- Eighth Offense: In School Suspension
- Ninth Offense: Alternative School

(Behaviors that are more than a classroom disruption and/or I feel may cause physical/mental harm to others will be skipping #1 through #6 and Mrs. Glover will be called to remove the student from my room.)

## POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

### Entering the classroom:

- Please enter the classroom, put away your things in the crates provided, get out the materials you need for class, and log into your computer **very quietly**.
- Look on the Announcements board and write any due dates or events in your planner.
- Look on the board or the TV Screen to see the lesson of the day.
- There should be no talking, **coming up to me for questions**, or wandering around the room. Keep your hands, feet, and other objects to yourself. Do not run and/or shout inside the classroom! It is important that we get started on the lesson right away and not waste any valuable time!

### Dismissal of Class:

Five minutes before class is over, you will be instructed to tidy up your floor and table. When this is done, sit and wait quietly. This indicates you are ready to go. I will line up one table at a time. You must line up quietly and quickly.

**Talking:**

Talking is a requirement for the class; however, you should not talk until told to do so. This is so that everyone can listen and understand instruction. You will have many group discussions and team activities that will require you to collaborate with others. These discussions must be on topic. Discussions about personal or unrelated issues will result in good old fashion book work with zero talking. YUCK!

**Leaving Your Seat:**

You may not leave your seat without raising your hand to get permission first. Don't worry, activities will require you to move around the room, so you won't have to be still the whole class period.

**Materials:**

You need to bring your materials to class everyday. There is no excuse for not having what you need. This is your job as a student, just as a doctor would never go to work without a stethoscope, you should always have your supplies. You get one "oops". This is where you forget something and I allow you to borrow from me. The second time you forget supplies, you will have to sign the conduct book for silent lunch.

**Guests in the Room:**

When a guest enters the room whether they are 7 or 97 - everyone gets quiet. They should be absolutely no talking when they are in the room. We want to help the guest conduct whatever business they need as quickly as possible so that we do not waste their time and they do not waste ours.

**Guest Teachers:**

When I am absent and you have a guest teacher, you should be on your best behavior and show him or her the upmost respect. If I get a negative report from a guest teacher, Ms. Glover and your parent will be notified and you will be required to personally apologize to him or her.

**Lockers:**

You will have specific times that you may go to your lockers. This is before school; before or after P.E. depending on your teacher; before or after lunch depending on your teacher; and before the dismissal bell. If you forget something in your locker, you will have to sign the conduct book for silent lunch. Please make sure you have everything you need for the day so this does not happen. You may not for any reason, open another student's locker, put notes through the vents, or share locker combinations with your friends. Doing so will result in losing your locker privilege. In the mornings, you may not go to your locker until the 7:30 bell unless you are an Ambassador.

**Hallways:**

There should never be any talking or loitering in the hallways. When changing classes, you must walk in a straight, quiet line to the next teacher's door. Wait until he or she has you come in. Do not talk or play around! This is a Mrs. Allred Rule and is strongly enforced! When you have special permission to leave the room, you may only go to the place you are supposed to. Do not hang out in the hallway talk to others, or go to your locker. If you violate this rule, you will not be allowed to leave the room by yourself again.

**Cell Phones/Electronics:**

Cell Phones, iPods, DSs, and other electronic games are not to be brought to the classroom. Please turn these off and keep these in your locker. If found, these items will be confiscated and student's parent/guardian must collect items from the office, not from my classroom. Electronic devices you may bring to class are nooks, kindles, ipads, and tablets. If you bring these, they are for reading downloaded books or for teacher approved activities. Violation of this will result in the device being taken up and a parent will have to come and get it from the office.

**Gum/Candy:**

You may not chew gum at all at MMS! You may not have candy unless a teacher gives it to you. This is a Mrs. Allred rule and is strongly enforced.

**Snacks:**

You may bring a breakfast snack to homeroom. Snack time is from 7:45 - 8:00. Do not bring sugary snacks or candy. You are not allowed to bring sodas to school at all. If you do, these will be thrown away. You may take bottled water from class to class; however, when we are on the computer, the water bottle must be closed and in your crate.

**Restroom:**

Each student has a passport book for the restroom. If you need to go to the restroom, raise your hand. I will ask you for your passport book. I will stamp your passport book and you will go to the sign out book and write your name, the time you left, and restroom as your destination. You are only allowed 2 passport stamps a week, so choose wisely. If you have a restroom emergency, please whisper to someone at your table the emergency and you may leave immediately. The person that you told will come and tell me about your emergency and then I will send them to be with you in case you need me or the nurse. Bathroom emergencies include vomiting, diarrhea, and taking care of feminine needs.

**Grooming:**

Brushing or combing your hair and putting on make-up, is not allowed in the classroom at any time. I know it is awesome to have your hair braided and played with by your BFF, but it wastes valuable instruction time. You are beautiful or handsome just the way you are and need to focus on learning not grooming! If this rule is broken, items will be confiscated and the student's parent/guardian will collect the items at the end of the year from Mrs. Glover.

**Office Announcements:**

When an office announcement is comes over the intercom, everyone freezes in place and listens attentively and silently.

**Emergency Procedures:**

In fire drills, tornado drills, or other emergency drill occurs, the rules are as follows:

1. Immediately be quiet and listen for instructions
2. Form a single-file line
3. Follow my directions
4. Move quickly and do not goof around

**My Desk and Teacher Area:**

Students are not allowed behind my desk, for any reason! Most of the time, I won't even be at my desk during class time. Simply raise your hand if you need me. The gold line is a kid incinerator. If you cross it, you will "poof" disappear! Make sure you don't cross the gold incinerator line!

**Student - Teacher Conferences**

If you need to talk to me for any reason, whether it is a serious issue or just to tell me about your weekend, I am available to talk to. Unfortunately, class time has to be reserved for instruction, but you may put me a note in my mailbox and I will arrange a time for us to talk during the day and come and get you either from Breakfast, P.E., Exploratory, Lunch., or before the Dismissal Bells.

**Computer Usage:**

- Follow any instructions that I give you.
- Never bring food or liquids near any computers.
- You will only use the computer to do work directly related to the assignment. You may not be on any website other than the class site or sites I have told you to go to.
- You will never negatively impact the software on the computer. Examples of negatively impacting the software include, but are not limited to: changing the settings, deleting other students' work, applications, or shortcuts, downloading applications from the internet, introducing viruses, etc.
- You will never negatively impact the hardware of the computer. Examples of negatively impacting the hardware include, but are not limited to: damaging or removing keys, inserting unauthorized items into the drives, writing on the computer, etc.

- If you are set and ready to go and are waiting on others, you may open another tab to check your grades or work on any assignments you are behind on.
- If you break a rule, your computer privileges will be revoked for the next assignment and possibly the rest of the year depending on the nature and the frequency of violations. You will have to complete the assignment (and future assignments) without the benefit of computer technology.

#### **Emergencies/Nurse:**

If you have a restroom emergency, please whisper to someone at your table the emergency and you may leave immediately. The person that you told will come and tell me about your emergency and then I will send them to be with you in case you need me or the nurse. Bathroom emergencies include vomiting, diarrhea, and taking care of feminine needs.

If you feel sick, such as a fever, flulike symptoms, headaches, earaches, stomachaches, a rash, an injury, trouble breathing, or sharp pain, please raise your hand. I will give you a nurse's pass to go to the nurse's office. Remember, if you have a headache nothing can be done unless your parents have brought medicine to the school and signed a release form for the nurse to give it to you.

#### **Absences/Missed Work:**

The benefit of online modules is that you can do these lessons anytime and anyplace that has internet service. The website is mobile compatible, meaning that it can be accessed easily by mobile devices such as phones and tablets as well. If you are absent from school and are feeling well enough to use a computer, you can go to the calendar on the planner page and find the lesson for that day. Do the lesson module at home. If you are not well enough to do the lesson, you will have 2 class days to make up work. This is a policy of the St. Clair County School System and is described in detail in the Code of Conduct.

All tests or quizzes will be made up on during your enrichment/intervention class. **If you are absent the day of a test or quiz you must take it the day you return** unless an alternative plan is discussed with your parent. You will know about all quizzes and tests at least a week in advance.

## **THE SOCIAL STUDIES DAILY ROUTINE**

(This of course will be different on test and project days, or on assembly and special schedule days.)

#### **First 5 minutes of class:**

- Walk in quietly... without talking. Get out Chronicles and a pencil. Put all other supplies in your crate. I will call the roll. Open your computers and log in using your user id and password. Go to the class website. [www.aprilsmith.org](http://www.aprilsmith.org) Wait for any special announcements and/or instructions.

#### **5 - 40 minutes into class:**

- Instruction and Activities

#### **Last 5 - 10 minutes of class:**

- Everyone gets quiet. Log Out of your computer. Close the lid to the computer. Clean trash off the table and floor while waiting for your table to be called. Make sure you've gathered all your personal items and left any of my materials in the appropriate place. When your table is called, line up silently. Walk in a straight, quiet line to your next class.

#### **Computer Housekeeping:**

Each class period will have to either get your computer from the cart or put your computer back on the cart. Refer to the following:

**First Period:** You will need to get your computers from the cart and boot them up.

**Second Period:** You will need to boot down your computers, put them back on the cart, and hook up the chargers.

**Fourth Period:** You will need to get your computers from the cart and boot them up.

**Fifth Period:** You will need to boot down your computers, put them back on the cart, and hook up the chargers.

**Seventh Period:** You will need to get your computers from the cart and boot them up.

**Eighth Period:** You will need to boot down your computers, put them back on the cart, and hook up the chargers.

## SCHEDULES

### Class Schedules

Now that you are in sixth grade, things are a little different. You change classes, have lockers, only have 50 minutes in each class, and have 7 teachers! Your schedule will depend on which teacher you have for homeroom. Refer to the class schedule in the front of your Lesson Chronicles to see your homeroom class's schedule.

### Morning Schedule

7:15 Breakfast

7:30 Morning Bell - Report to Class

7:45 Homeroom

7:55 Tardy

If you are not in class by 7:55, you will be marked tardy. Please refer to the student code of conduct to view the consequences for excessive tardies and absences.

### Dismissal Bell Schedule:

The following dismissal schedule is an approximation using what I know about changes this year and the schedule last year. If this schedule changes, I will let you know a.s.a.p. and give you a small schedule to glue on top of this one.

2:50	3:00	3:05	3:10	3:15
All Car Riders 11-04 Greaux 6-18 Gardner 14-02 Parker	10-6 Tuggle	09-06 Oliver 10-3 Freeman 09-5 Blanchard 08-02 Smith	04-4 Traylor 12-04 Birchfield 11-01 Howard 04-3 Pilkington 06-08 Thompson 05-5 Abney	06-3 Elliott 10-4 Stipes 10-5 Little 09-07 Carpenetti All Extended Day

## INOW

### Getting Access to Grades on INOW

You need to take home your INOW login and password to your parents or guardians. If your parents do not receive one, lose it, or forget their login and password, they can follow the following procedures to receive a new login and password.

- Go to the school website: [mms.sccboe.org](http://mms.sccboe.org)
- Look at the links on the left side under Parent Resources
- Click on INOW Password Request
- Fill out the form and submit



**Accessing INOW**

Once you have an INOW login and password, you can go to the school website or the class website and click on Parent Portal. Put in the login and password and you can monitor your student's grades in each class.

**SYLLABUS ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**

Students,

This syllabus is to remain in your Lesson Chronicles Folder. You need to take your Lesson Chronicles Folder home every night. Tonight, read the syllabus over again with your parents or guardians. Have your parents fill out and sign the bottom portion of the syllabus below showing that you have shown it to them and gone over it together.

Thanks,  
Mrs. Smith

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I, \_\_\_\_\_ have read this entire syllabus with my parent or guardian. I know the  
( Write your name here.)

responsibilities and behaviors that are expected in this class and understand that I will expected to know and follow the rules, policies, and procedures outlined in this syllabus.

**Signed:**

\_\_\_\_\_  
( Student Signature Here)

\_\_\_\_\_  
( Parent/Guardian Signature Here)