



## Pine Middle School

4800 Neil Road  
Reno, NV 89502  
(775) 689-2550

August 2021

Dear students and parents,

The attached packet contains social studies department policies and items of interest, and there is information specific to my class. After the student and parent have reviewed and understood this information, sign the back page and return it by this Wednesday.

Like the rest of the social studies department, my class uses weighted grades to reduce the chances of a major assignment severely hurting the student's overall grade. Classwork assignments are 45% of the overall grade, quizzes and exams make up another 45% of the final grade, and homework assignments determine the remaining 10% of the total grade. Late work is accepted for seven calendar days from the due date; after that period the assignments are no longer allowed to be submitted.

I have specific requirements for the materials you will use in my class, and I conduct regular materials checks to ensure students are remaining organized. You are always welcome to have additional folders if you wish, but the below items are mandatory and were on the team letter:

- A. Pens or pencils with easily readable ink/lead (*I have a supply of colored pencils in my room and do not require you purchase more*)
- B. At least three different colors of highlighters.
- C. Lined college or wide ruled paper
- D. Your Pine Planner- replacement planners will cost \$5
- E. Three ring binder (*either for all classes or just one for this class*)

Students are always responsible for solving problems they create for themselves or others. Honest work is expected, and a plagiarism policy is provided in this packet. Students will be required to check their Infinite Campus account weekly to ensure work is submitted on time and to maintain passing grades. They are required to check Infinite Campus each week and during the middle of each quarter will need to provide proof that parents/guardians have been made aware of academic concerns, either with a grade note or a call by the student to a parent/guardian.

The student and parent signature on the back of this letter must be signed **and returned to Mr. Irigoin's class by this Wednesday**. If you have questions, please contact me via the office phone at 689-2550 or through e-mail at [sirigoin@washoeschools.net](mailto:sirigoin@washoeschools.net).

I am looking forward to a great year working with you!

Mr. Irigoin, Social Studies Teacher



# Pine Middle School

"Home of the Patriots"

<http://www.washoeschools.net/pine>

## SOCIAL STUDIES



Washoe County School District

Every Child, By Name And Face, To Graduation

### COURSE OVERVIEW & EXPECTATIONS

**Course Description/Outline:** At this level of the social studies curriculum, the students investigate social studies from three perspectives: Nevada, the United States, and the World. Students learn about the foundations, structures, and processes of political systems and institutions. They understand why people are economically interdependent and continue to develop the skills and perspective necessary to study the relationships between the human and physical world using geographic technologies.

#### Course Goals:

1. To understand the people, events, ideas, and conflicts that lead to the evolution of the United States.
2. Analyze how social ideas and individual action lead to social, political, economic, and technological change.
3. Compare the interaction and interdependence of nations around the world.
4. Use maps, globes, and other geographic tools and technologies to locate and extrapolate information about people, places, and environments.
5. Contrast how economic, political, and cultural processes interact to shape patterns of human migration and settlement.
6. Recognize how markets work and how supply and demand interact to determine the market price.
7. Identify the causes of economic change and explain how the U.S. economic system responds to those changes.
8. Comprehend why society needs rules, laws, and government and understand the roles, rights, and responsibilities of citizens.
9. Examine the U.S. Constitution and the government it created as well as the structure and function of state and local governments.
10. Describe the roles of political parties, elections, interest groups, media, and public opinion in the democratic process.

**Course Schedule & Resources:** The following is a projected two-year plan of study for social studies.

	<i>Quarter 1</i>	<i>Quarter 2</i>	<i>Quarter3</i>	<i>Quarter 4</i>
<i>7<sup>th</sup> Grade</i>	<i>American Revolution</i> <i>Constitution</i>	<i>American Government</i> <i>Jeffersonian Era</i>	<i>Antebellum Era</i> <i>Civil War</i>	<i>Civil War Review &amp; Reconstruction</i> <i>Westward Expansion</i>
<i>8<sup>th</sup> Grade</i>	<i>Industrial Revolution &amp; Progressive Era</i> <i>Imperialism &amp; World War One</i>	<i>Roaring Twenties &amp; Great Depression</i> <i>World War Two</i>	<i>Cold War Era</i> <i>Integrated Units of Study that focus on Globalization and Economics</i>	

**Hours of Availability:** Due to various meetings and commitments I am available via appointment from 7:15-7:25 in the morning and 2:15-2:45 in the afternoon. You may also e-mail me ([sirigoin@washoeschools.net](mailto:sirigoin@washoeschools.net)) and I will reply as soon as possible.

**Classroom Rules/Student Expectations:** Students have a responsibility to their own success as well as other students in class to stay on task and contribute positively in class. This extends to both academics and behavior. To clarify how students can best meet their responsibilities, the following policies apply:

- 1) Follow ALL directions the first time given
- 2) Be positive to others in your words and actions
- 3) Be in your seat before the class bell rings
- 4) Have all required materials in class
- 5) Keep hands, feet, and objects to yourself
- 6) Raise your hand and wait to be called on to speak

**Materials Needed:** Bring the following to my class each day! There will be unannounced materials checks that will be worth points towards your grade.

- Pens or pencils; colored pencils for projects to work on at home
- At least three different colors of highlighters- your choice of colors
- Lined college or wide ruled paper
- Pine Planner- no passes outside of the classroom will be given without it
- Three ring binder- Either for just this class or for all classes with a social studies divider

**Student Planners:**

- Parents need to check their child's agenda/planner on a weekly basis to stay informed of class assignments and instruction- a filled out planner with parent signature is a weekly assignment.
- Students will make daily entries into their planner showing homework, due dates, test days, holidays, and school events. Using the planner appropriately reinforces accountability and will result in individual and group success. Students will not be excused during class, such as to go to the bathroom, without a planner pass signed by the teacher.
- Replacement Planners may be purchased for \$5.00 in the main office throughout the school year. However, newly-purchased planners provided after a materials check will not result in a raised grade.

**Grades:** Parents will be informed of child's progress primarily through the Parent Portal of Infinite Campus, Academic Warnings notices (*mid-quarter*), and official report cards (*quarterly*). The Infinite Campus system is provided to all parents and students in order to track their current progress in class. At the middle school level students are required to take the lead role in tracking their progress in class, so it is **SOLELY** the student who is responsible to check grades for accuracy and to be sure they are not in danger of failing. Students have seven calendar days, not including quarter deadlines, to turn in missing work. After this time no points will be awarded. No extra credit assignments will be provided.

**Academic Honesty/Plagiarism:** Work assigned to students must be completed in an honest manner. In cases where copying assignments from another student is identified, both students will receive a zero on the assignment as well as be referred for disciplinary action.

Plagiarism is the unacknowledged use of somebody else's words or ideas. Because of electronic formats, plagiarism has never been easier to commit. Length can vary from entire pages to as short as a sentence. Regardless of the intent, "copying and pasting" but not listing where you got it from is against district rules, and can result in failure of the assignment as well as disciplinary action. Students have been provided a copy of how to properly cite information in their projects and will be held accountable to follow the format. Please see the guide on plagiarism attached to this syllabus for specifics. **ANY QUESTIONS** regarding how to avoid plagiarism on an assignment should be referred to a Language Arts teacher or myself before handing in the assignment.

# Avoiding Plagiarism- YOUR Responsibility

Middle school is a time when students learn rules that writers have to follow, such as handing in honest work. Inadvertent mistakes can lead to **plagiarism**, or the use of somebody else's words or ideas without giving them credit and presenting it as your own work. Often times this is copying and pasting from the internet or a book. A charge of plagiarism can have severe consequences, so avoid plagiarism by ALWAYS giving credit to where you got the information!

- **Paraphrase:** using someone's ideas, but putting them in your own words. This more than changing one or two words from the original, and it also requires some shifting of ideas. Although you use your own words to paraphrase, you must still list the source of the information you got the information from
- **Summary:** putting only the main ideas or main points into your own words. Few if any of the same words are in the summary. Although summaries are much shorter than the original and take a broad overview of the source material, you must still list the source of the information.
- **Quotation:** using someone's exact words. When quoting, you must always put quotation marks around the passage and you must still acknowledge the source of the information/direct quote.

## Here is how you write correctly

**The original passage:** *"Students frequently overuse direct quotation in taking notes, and as a result they overuse quotations in the final [research] paper. Probably only about 10% of your final manuscript should appear as directly quoted matter. Therefore, you should strive to limit the amount of exact transcribing of source materials while taking notes."* Lester, James D. *Writing Research Papers*. 2nd ed. (1976): 46-47.



**An acceptable paraphrase:** *According to James Lester, students often quote excessively in research papers, failing to keep quoted material down to a desirable level. Since the problem usually originates during note taking, it is essential to minimize the material recorded verbatim (Lester 46-47).*

**An acceptable summary:** *Students should take just a few notes in direct quotation from sources to help minimize the amount of quoted material in a research paper (Lester 46-47).*

**An acceptable use of a quote:** *To produce a quality paper that showcases your ideas, "probably only 10% of your final manuscript should appear as directly quoted matter" (Lester 46-47).*

## Here is how you write incorrectly



**An unacceptable plagiarized version:** *Students often use too many direct quotations when they take notes, resulting in too many of them in the final research paper. In fact, probably only about 10% of the final copy should consist of directly quoted material. So it is important to limit the amount of source material copied while taking notes.*

**\*\*This uses a lot of direct quotes and doesn't summarize or paraphrase. The author clearly just changed a little from the original writing and tried passing it off as their own work. In some cases, this was copied and pasted from the original.**

***When in doubt, ask your ELA or Social Studies teacher for help!***

**Please detach this portion and return to your Social Studies teacher by Wednesday**

**PART I- Student Agreement**

I have read all of classroom expectations for this class, including the rules and procedures. I know if I have any questions, I can speak to my teacher or even send him/her an email. I understand that this is a standards-based and activity-based learning experience, which means that on-time attendance and productive participation are critically important to be successful. Pine Middle School attendance/tardy policies are enforced. I have also read through the plagiarism packet and am clear of the expectations for the work I complete. I know I am responsible for following these requirements while being a student in the class. I understand I have seven calendar days, not including quarter deadlines, to turn in missing work. After this time no points will be awarded. No extra credit assignments will be provided.

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Student Name (*Print clearly*)

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Class Period

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Student Signature

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Date

**PART II- Parent Agreement**

I have read and reviewed, with my child, all of classroom expectations for this class, including the rules and procedures. I know if I have any questions, I can contact my child's teacher at 689-2550 or even send an email. I understand that this is a standards-based or activity-based learning experience, which means that on-time attendance and productive participation are critically important for my child to be successful. Pine Middle School attendance/tardy policies are enforced. I have also read through the plagiarism packet and am clear of the expectations for the work my child will complete. I have reviewed with my child that they are responsible for completing all assignments honestly and on time. I understand students have seven calendar days, not including quarter deadlines, to turn in missing work. After this time no points will be awarded. No extra credit assignments will be provided.

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Parent/Guardian Signature

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Date