

Language Arts & Social Studies- Grade 7

"Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world." -Nelson Mandela

Classroom Expectations

1. *Be respectful to all.*
2. *Come to class prepared.*
3. *Use your time wisely.*
4. *Listen and follow directions.*
5. *Do your best!*
6. *Think positive and be supportive of one another.*
7. *Have fun!*

Notice to All Students:

Leave the excuses at the door.

If you didn't do your homework, just admit it and get it done.

If you don't understand the assignment, ask for help.

If you didn't study for the test, resolve to do better next time.

If you choose to break my rules, you choose to accept the consequences.

I'm here for one reason only:

to TEACH and INSPIRE you AND HELP YOU TO GROW!

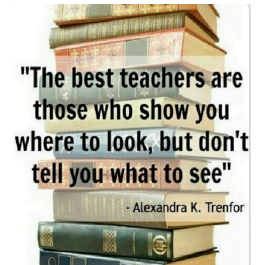
I'll do my part. The rest is up to you.

Daily Supplies

- **Social Studies Notebook "SSNB"** must be brought to class every single day. Do NOT throw out or replace the notebook. We constantly refer back to completed pages. You may NOT use this notebook for ANY other class- do not rip out or use pages unless told to do so. All 80 pages will be used for Social Studies. Miss Bush has provided each student with an SSNB.
- **Pencils**- lots of pencils!
- **Pens**- blue, black, and red
- **Highlighters**
- **Loose-leaf paper** for language arts

Course Description

Welcome to 7th grade Language Arts and Social Studies! Our focus this year will be learning and developing our skills as critical thinkers, readers, writers, collaborators, and citizens. It is my goal to provide students with strategies and tools they will need to succeed, not only in school, but also as self-advocating, productive members of our community. Through consistent expectations and strategic scaffolding, students will grow as readers, writers and citizens.



What do I get if I meet classroom expectations?

Your appropriate behavior in class assures everyone of an environment conducive to learning. Some possible rewards for continuous appropriate behavior are: satisfaction of learning, improved skills, verbal praise, positive note to family, tangible trinkets, and special class or group activities, privileges, or passes. For instance, I allow the use of headphones and music when expectations are met during student time.

What are the consequences if I don't meet expectations?

1. Natural Consequence: lack of learning or forfeit of points
2. Warning: the teacher provides a verbal reprimand/reminder.
3. Privileges Taken Away: headphones may be banned, students lose opportunity to choose seats or partners, etc.
4. Parent/Guardian Contact: student may be asked to contact parent/guardian
5. Lunch/Break Detention: short time spent during lunch or break to contemplate conduct. Behavior reflection essay may be assigned.
6. Referral to Administration: a student will be immediately referred to administration for severe or habitual behavior problems.

Where do I go to find agendas and assignments?

Students must use a planner every day in my classes. The agenda for the class is always displayed on the screen or white board as students enter the classroom. It also includes homework.

Pink Sheets are provided with homework and important information. These allow for weekly communication between students, families and myself. Students receive Pink Sheets on Mondays and they are due on Friday with parent/guardian signature. This signature indicates that parents are aware of the homework assigned. Pink Sheets are subject to change, and students are expected to make changes when applicable with me during class. They are viewed and discussed daily as the transition between LA and SS. This enforces a #NoExcuses policy.

Parent/Guardian Communication

1. Pink Sheets (tentative weekly homework) handed out Mon. due on Fri.
2. Green Sheets (weekly progress reports) handed out Fri. due following Thurs.
3. Email: stacy.bush@leusd.k12.ca.us
4. Jupiter Ed (online grade book- messaging available)
5. Remind App (schoolwide messaging system- automatically enrolled)

Grade Breakdown

Assessments and Projects- 50%
Classwork- 30%
Homework- 20%

Language Arts 7

Instruction in Language Arts will be guided by the CA Common Core State Standards for ELA grade 7. Our school district has adopted a new curriculum called Houghton Mifflin's *California Collections*. Students will receive a textbook and will have access to all resources via www.Clever.com

There are 6 "collections," or units of study, included. Please look for information sent home regarding the collection topics and "how-to" for accessing resources online.

Social Studies 7

The California Grade Seven History-Social Science Content Standards and the Literacy in History/Social Studies Standards will be used to guide instruction. We will use a combination of *History Alive!* and the History-Social Science Project materials from the University of California, as well as other supplements.

Topics covered include, but are not limited to, Medieval Europe and the role of Christianity, the rise of Islam and contributions of Muslims made to the world, the spread of Buddhism through China and Japan during the Middle Ages, and the Americas. For each civilization we will analyze the geography, government, economy, religions, social structure, and culture. They will also investigate the interactions that occurred among various societies. It is my hope that through exploring these diverse societies, students will learn to be empathetic and be more inclined to celebrate differences.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Stacy.Bush@leusd.k12.ca.us

How will I check my grade in class?

Student progress reports will be sent home every Friday. These are called Green Sheets and include your child's current grades. Green Sheets must be signed by student and parent/guardian, and returned to me by the following Thursday in order to receive credit. Yes, Green Sheets are a grade and cannot be made up due to the nature of the assignment. Green Sheets are kept in your child's file. I also strongly encourage you to log in to Jupiter Ed regularly to monitor individual assignment comments, directions, messages, and other information.

What do I do if I am absent?

It is 100% the student's responsibility to retrieve any absent work. He or she should check the "While You Were Out" area in my classroom, ask a classmate, and/or come to me before or after school, at lunch or break, or during student time during class. Students have one full week (7 days) from the day they return to turn in absent work. If a student needs more time, he or she must contact me before the 7th day to work out an alternative plan. Students who are absent due to a school activity are required to retrieve and complete work missed.

Late work? Passes? Missing work? Extra credit? No Name?

Students will receive 3 late work passes and 3 homework passes for each class of mine for the entire school year. If these passes are lost they will not be replaced. I track the usage of the passes to eliminate the possibility of duplicates. Late work and homework passes must be attached to the assignment and filled out completely. Late work passes may be used with homework, classwork, and projects. Homework passes may only be used for homework assignments (SSNB Left-Side odd numbered pages). Homework passes may not be used on writing assignments due to the writing process.

I do not accept missing work after the due date. This is because it is simply overwhelming to the student and causes more anxiety for the student than anything else. It is also *usually* done in a rush and nothing is learned from it. I encourage students to turn in assignments on-time and provide plenty of time, support, and reminders. If there is a rare occasion where a student falls behind, I will dedicate time to help him or her create better habits.

Extra credit does become available throughout the year. Typically, extra credit is more difficult than the regular required work.

No name? No credit.

What is the Social Studies Notebook or SSNB?

The SSNB is a portfolio of student work. It is organized in a left-side and right-side format. Each left-side "Output" page will be homework, and can be explained as a "show what you know" regarding information from the right. Right-side "Input" pages are classwork. These pages are teacher directed and are completed as a whole many times.

Notebooks will be collected after 10 pages have been completed. Students will receive a rubric on Monday and notebooks are due that Thursday. This way, all students have ample time to complete anything that is not finished during the week. This system allows for students to pace themselves when more time is needed. The notebook serves many purposes: including practicing organization, time management, and how to effectively use resources (may use SSNB during tests). SSNBs are used daily in social studies.

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Please read the information, sign, and return **ONLY** this sheet to Miss Bush.

Students:

Please sign below to signify that you have read the course sheets for Miss Bush's class, will keep it safe somewhere at home, and will be responsible for the information throughout the year.

 Student printed name

 Student signature

Parents/Guardians:

Check all the statements that apply to how you would like to communicate with Miss Bush about your student's progress. I will, of course, call for major concerns or accomplishments, but with approximately 100 students, I'd like to know how you'd prefer to communicate.

_____ I/We have internet access at home, so we will check Jupiter Grades at least once per week to check on my/our student's progress. I/We will contact Miss Bush about any concerns we have.

_____ I/We do not have internet access at home. I/we will call Miss Bush for information when concerns are not addressed on Pink or Green Sheets.

_____ Other: _____

*If you have other questions, concerns, or simply information you would like for me to have, please include that on the back of this sheet.

Please sign below to indicate that you have read the course sheet for Miss Bush's classes, and that you will help your student be accountable for the information. If you have questions about the course or your student's work, please do not hesitate to contact me; **email is the best way to reach me quickly.**

 Parent/Guardian printed name

 Parent/Guardian signature

 Parent/Guardian **e-mail**
 (please print)

 Parent/Guardian **daytime** phone number

Parents and guardians, please CIRCLE the best way for me to contact you:

e-mail

phone