

Geography and World Cultures

Mr. J. Parmele

<http://mrparmele.com>

jparmele@cpsge.org

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Welcome!

I am looking forward to an amazing year with you in our classroom, and on our team. We will have some fun but we will also accomplish quite a bit of work as we prepare you for high school. Since we will be together for 58 minutes a day, every day, we will know each other very well by the end of the school year. Along the way, through the learning process, we have a few guidelines to follow to keep us all sane. The following is an outline of some of the expectations we will have as a class.

Topics Covered

We will be covering the world. Not just the countries and capitals, but also the natural beauty, different lifestyles, cultures, and even how people from around the world have fun. Additionally, we will learn basic map skills, fundamentals of common economic systems, and the use of charts, tables, and other topics as outlined by the State of Massachusetts Curriculum Frameworks.

Daily Procedures

In order to keep structure in the class we will follow a basic pattern almost everyday in the class. If there is a change in the routine, it will be highlighted on the agenda board so that we all know what to expect. Please be advised that ALL CLASSWORK, NOTES, HOMEWORK ASSIGNMENTS, AND STUDY GUIDES MAY BE FOUND ON MY WEBSITE, <http://www.mrparmele.com>.

Agenda: On the board in the front of the room is our Daily Agenda. Additionally, you will find the State Standards for today's topic, the Lesson Objective, and a five-day Preview of what is coming up.

CNN Student News (10 minutes): A brief video rundown of the latest news.

Do Now (5 minutes): Every day when you enter the room there will be a warm-up question on front board that will be used as review of our work from the previous day, or an introduction to the upcoming lesson. Please use white-lined paper to answer this question, and keep the paper in your **iFolder**. After a few minutes, we will discuss the Do Now as a class.

Whole Group: As a class, we will discuss today's primary objective. Students will most likely be required to take notes during this portion of class.

After Whole Group, the students will spend the bulk of class in one of three Small Group Learning Stations (25 minutes):

Activity: In small groups of four to eight, the students will work on an activity to support today's primary objective. This may include worksheets, analysis of artifacts, hands-on projects, using the Listening Station, etc.

Independent : The students will work independently on informational text articles, charts, graphs, maps, or some other form of individual work.

Teacher-Led: This station will allow the students to have small-group instruction with myself. Working with Primary Source material will be the main emphasis of this station.

Exit Ticket (5 minutes): A brief summary of today's work.

Effort Stamps

Students may earn "GREAT JOB" STAMPS during the course of our work. Collecting five such stamps will result in either a Homework Pass for a single assignment, or five points on a test.

Materials:

Be responsible and bring all materials to class. These materials include:

* Social Studies Binder or notebook

* "iFolder"

* Pencil or Pen

Binder Check

Periodically throughout the year, Mr. P will check notebooks for a grade. You must have all notes, handouts, and a complete iFolder (all assignments for the week). Check the NOTEBOOK RUBRIC for more information.

Homework Assessments

Every Tuesday, a new assignment may be given. The assignment will be announced in class, and posted on my website (www.mrparmele.com), as well as on our Schoology page. Each assignment has a one-week completion time, and may be submitted on paper or electronically. If the student is absent on the day an assignment is given, they are still responsible for turning in the assignment on time. If the student is absent the day an assignment is due, they are responsible for turning their work in on the next school day. There is a five point penalty per day for any late work, up to a maximum of 20 points off, in accordance with Bellamy's "Power of I" policy.

Grading Policies - we will be following Bellamy Middle School's Grading Policy.

Weights

Tests	30%	Class Participation	10%
In-Class Assignments	25%	Homework	10%
Quizzes	15%	Notebook Check	10%

Extra Credit

There is no extra credit available. Successful completion of the assigned work will more than qualify a student for a good grade.

Class Participation

There will be a class participation grade based on attendance in class, arriving on time and prepared (as outlined above), as well as asking thoughtful questions, or adding useful comments to our lessons. Of course, volunteering to answer questions will be weighed as well.

Student Expectations

1. Be **RESPONSIBLE** for your own learning.
 - a. Be prepared. Have all materials with you when you come to class.
 - b. Be a positive, active participant in class.
 - c. Complete homework, including reading assignments within suggested or required time frames.
 - d. Study regularly in small amounts rather than just the night before tests or quizzes.
 - e. Ask for help.
 - f. Do your own work. Cheating will result in a zero.
 - g. Be in your seat and working on the Do Now within one minute of entering the classroom.
2. Be **RESPECTFUL** of others and their things.
 - a. Listen while someone else is talking.
 - b. No put downs – We are a team!
 - c. Treat others as you would like to be treated.
 - d. Leave the classroom in the same condition as when you arrived.
3. **REFRAIN** from disrupting the teacher from teaching and other students from learning.

If You CHOOSE to break a rule...The Yellowjackets Team Progressive Discipline Policy will be enforced!

My Responsibilities as your teacher:

1. To teach you the required content
2. To treat you with respect and care as an individual
3. To provide you an orderly classroom environment
4. To provide the necessary discipline
5. To provide the appropriate motivation
6. To create and present interesting and appropriate lessons, activities, and videos

-Mr. P.-

I have read and understand the above expectations for 7th Grade Social Studies with Mr. Parmele:

Student Name: _____ Homeroom _____

Student Signature: _____ Date: _____

Parent Signature: _____ Date: _____