

Mr. O'Meara's Survival Guide

I offer the following pieces of advice to parents and students to help guarantee the best opportunity for success this year. These are not intended to be a substitute for the team rules but advice on how to adjust to the 8th grade and take responsibility for your learning.

1. Virtue is its own reward. Do the right things on a regular basis and you won't have to seek compliments, praise or prizes. Good things will happen naturally.
2. Have your materials every day. You can't use your time effectively if you don't have your other resources.
3. Nothing is more important than completing your assignments and getting them turned in on time! Paying attention in class and studying on a regular basis run a close second and third. Work is expected to be complete and in your notebook on the assigned day.
4. Students are responsible for finding out what work they missed any time they are gone from class. This should be done after class or after school on the day they return. Use your Table of Contents in the notebook to learn what you missed in. Work must be made up in a timely fashion. This includes all formative and summative assessments!
5. Show your parents your interactive notebooks frequently. They can look at what you are studying and how well you are keeping up with your responsibilities.
6. Parents are encouraged to check the class web page, <http://teachers.lps.org/pomeara> to find information about the class and homework for the week.
7. All work that is individually assigned must be completed on your own. I will be happy to answer any questions you may have but please don't ask others. You are not allowed to work together on individual assignments.

GRADING PRACTICES

You will receive three types of grades in Social Studies. The categories and criteria for each are described below.

1. Learning

Summative Assessments will be used to measure what you have learned in each unit.

This grade will be determined using a percentage scale.

100%-90%	=	A
89%-86%	=	B+
85%-80%	=	B
79%-76%	=	C+
75%-70%	=	C
69%-66%	=	D+
65%-60%	=	D
59% and Below	=	F

2. Work/Study Habits

This category includes many of the traits that will determine the level of your learning and achievement. Daily work, formative assessments, and the majority of the work completed in your notebook fall under this category. Evaluation of your work/study habits will include the following areas:

- Listens
- Follows oral and written directions
- Is on task
- Participation
- Strives for quality work
- Seeks help as needed from appropriate people
- Completes assignments on time
- Is organized
- Comes to class prepared

3. Social/Behavior Skills

This category is designed to evaluate and report on the actions and attitudes of students. The following areas will be included in the evaluation:

- Accepts consequences for actions taken
- Demonstrates self-discipline and control
- Follows school and classroom rules
- Demonstrates responsible decision-making skills
- Demonstrates a positive attitude toward self and others
- Interacts with others appropriately

A 4-Point scale will be used to grade your performance in these categories each week. A conversion chart is provided below:

4.0	=	A
3.5	=	B+
3.0	=	B
2.5	=	C+
2.0	=	C
1.5	=	D+
1.0	=	D
.9 and Below	=	F