

Dear Parents and Students,

First of all, I think that I can speak for everyone here when I formally say "Welcome to Wilson Middle School!" My name is Mr. Head, and I will be your 6th grade social studies teacher for the upcoming year. I'm sure that you are a bit nervous to be coming to the middle school, and while it will be a lot of work, it will be a lot of fun as well!

To begin with, I'll introduce you to what we will be studying in my class. Here at Newark, we follow the State-Issued Social Studies Curriculum for 6th Grade. Those topics include the following:

6.H.1 - Multi-Tiered Timelines

6.H.2 - Ancient River Civilizations

6.Ge.3 - Geographic Tools

6.Ge.4 - Latitude and Longitude

6.Ge.5 - Regions

6.Ge.6 - Human-Environment Interaction

6.Ge.7 - Movement of People

6.Ge.8 - Major Global Religions (Buddhism, Christianity, Hinduism, Islam, and Judaism)

6.Go.9 - Perspective and Bias

6.Go.10 - Types of Government (Democracy, Dictatorship, Monarchy, and Theocracy)

6.Ec.11 - Economic Chart Reading

6.Ec.12 - Making Economic Choices

6.Ec.13 - Answering Economic Questions

6.Ec.14 - Specialization

6.Ec.15 - Supply and Demand

6.Ec.16 - Comparing Goods and Service

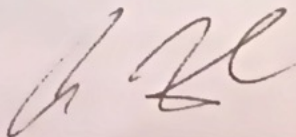
The first question that I always get when parents read that I will be teaching about Global religions is "are you allowed to teach religion in school?" First, I am not teaching religion, but teaching about many different religions and cultures from around the world. I also actively encourage students to talk to their parents if they have any questions about their personal religion. I want to emphasize that I work very hard to respect the beliefs of the various families throughout our school district.

On a lighter note, another topic that we discuss throughout the year is college. The organization Call to College comes and works with 6th graders throughout the district to make sure that students understand what they need to start doing in middle school so that they can begin getting ready to further their education, whether that be in a four year university or a trade-based school. The keystone on our study of colleges is when we take a field trip to a university. It's an exciting time for our students and we encourage you to start talking with your son or daughter about these topics.

Technology will be vital part of my classroom, as well as many of your child's. It is important that both you and your son/daughter know how to access Progress Book and have an active log-in so that you can both see the grades he or she has earned. I also will be using my classroom website (mrheadsclassroom.weebly.com/) to post homework or extra resources in case students need additional help.

Again, I understand that middle school is a huge transition. Your child will be given a much larger amount of responsibility than they ever were given at the elementary level. However, we would not ask that of them if we did not know they could handle it. Please, help you child when they struggle, but understand that struggling is part of learning. We as teachers are here to help: it's our passion after all. But we want to see our students push themselves, and that is no easy feat.

All of us at Wilson truly look forward to the coming year. Do not hesitate to ask any questions you may have.



Mr. Head
ahead@laca.org

Below is our classroom's behavior matrix. The behaviors on the left will result in one of or a combination of consequences on the right. The teacher has the right to choose the appropriate consequences and vary from the list as needed.

Behaviors and Consequences

<p>Intensity I (Annoying) Offenses</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not working or paying attention • Inappropriate volume • Talking or making noises while others are talking or teaching • Distracting others • Not keeping hands to oneself • Using inappropriate language 	<p>Corrective Responses and/or Consequences</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Teacher proximity • Verbal redirection • Verbal warning • Move student's seat • Student is given 10-15 minutes of lunch detention in my room • A phone call is made home by the teacher and student after class or during lunch
<p>Intensity II (Disruptive) Offenses</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Passively not following directions or working • Repeatedly (3+ times in a 40 minute period) committing Intensity I offenses • Being rude to a teacher or fellow student • Shouting out/yelling in class • Not keeping hands to oneself • Overtly distracting others 	<p>Corrective Responses and/or Consequences</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Given demerits • Is moved classrooms to work at another teacher's "time out" desk • Phone call home • Student spends entire lunch period in lunch detention
<p>Intensity III (Defiant) Offenses</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cheating • Being a distraction to other students after being placed in another teacher's "time out" desk • Throwing items in class • Continuing to commit Intensity I (5+ times in a 40 minute period) or Intensity II (3+ times in a 40 minute period) offenses • Blatant insubordination 	<p>Corrective Responses and/or Consequences</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hand-written note to parents by student explaining what student had done, which will be scanned and emailed to parents along with a phone call • Call home to request an after school detention • Student being sent to the dean-of-students
<p>Intensity IV (Severe or Dangerous) Offenses These include behaviors laid out on pages 9-26 in the Newark City Schools High School/Middle School Student Handbook, some of which are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • vandalism • bullying • verbal abuse/intimidation • theft • possession of illegal items/substances • threats toward another person(s) • physical assault/inappropriate physical contact 	<p>Administrative Responses Specified in the District Code of Conduct</p>

Pencil
Agenda
Purple Folder

What to Bring to Class

See the behavior
Matrix on the back

Students behaviors will lead to a
consequence based on the behavior matrix

Behavior Policy

How to Enter My Class

Take a warmup from the front table
Quietly put your things under your desk as
you work on it

Homework Policy

I do not assign homework often,
but when I do it's quite important

You may turn in your homework 1
day late for full credit

After that, you will lose
50% of the points

Classroom Policies

All your missed work can be
found on the class website. It is
YOUR responsibility to get this.

If I'm Absent

The number of days you are
absent equals the number of
days to complete all your work

Example: if you are absent for 2
days, you have 2 days after you
come back to complete all your
work

You are given three restroom passes every nine
weeks. You will need to give Mr. Head a pass
whenever you need to go to the restroom or your
locker during class. Also, you are not allowed to use
the restroom during the first or last five minutes of
class. **Restroom Policy**
If you need to go to the restroom and are out of
passes, you will receive a demerit

Technology

You **may only** have technology out, and
only be only websites, that Mr. Head
has given you direct permission
to be on

Mr. Head dismisses class, not the bell

When watching a video in class, heads are always up,
nothing is on the desk unless there is an assignment that
goes along with the video

Other Info

You are not allowed to have your cell phone on your
during class. If it is seen or heard, it will remain in the
office until the end of the day.

Work is turned in to the white tray with your period on it.
No name papers will receive a grade of zero.

90%-100% A
80%-89.9% B
70%-79.9% C

60%-69.9% D
Below 60% F

Grading

Half your grade is homework and classwork
Half your grade is quizzes and tests

By signing below, I acknowledge that I have read and agree to the policies, consequences, and state-mandated curriculum laid out in the previous pages of Mr. Head's syllabus.

Student's name: _____

Parent's name _____

Parent's signature: _____

Date _____