

Dear Parents/ Guardians,

Welcome !! I am delighted to have your student in my class! We partner with parents and guardians to ensure that your student receives the highest possible educational experience. My communication preference is e-mail, as written communications are clearer and not subject to misinterpretation.

There will be homework and studying required in this course, but separate, written homework will not be given every night. I prefer to have the opportunity to monitor the start of every assignment; the assignments are designed to be finished in class and reviewed at home where parents and guardians can supervise the quality and completeness of work. Most assigned work is graded as “Independent Practice”. Expect frequent quizzes taken from the “Independent Practice” concepts. Our tests will be taken from the material and concepts in our quizzes. We do not “cram” using “study guides” and expect to retain the concepts for future testing.

CLASSROOM ACTIVITIES

We will be interpreting History and Geography materials from a variety of sources, such as textbooks, resource books, films, hands-on material, maps, worksheets, and multimedia technologies. There will be written work, oral/written quizzes, tests, group work, projects, and participation in class activities. Please inspect your student’s agenda often – it will state what we are doing in the classroom daily.

WORK IS DUE THE NEXT CLASS MEETING AFTER IT’S ASSIGNED
6th grade work will be accepted late; 1 letter grade deducted for each late day.

8th grade work will not be accepted late.

Accepting late work encourages late work. This becomes a difficult habit to correct. Unfortunately, some students wait for assignments to be returned, copy answers from a friend, then hand theirs in and expect a grade. Over the years, we have found that it is best to be firm on our “NO LATE WORK” rule and it serves our students quite well for their future academic success.

This does not apply to work turned in after an *excused* absence. *It is the responsibility of the student to obtain “absent” work on the day they return*, and submit it for full credit. (Please have your student check with me after each excused absence.)

Some extra credit will be available from time to time, but only for those students who have completed all required assignments. Extra credit does not take the place of assigned Independent Practice. *Students are not allowed to retake tests or quizzes to improve their grades.*

Students with excused absences (illnesses, Doctor’s appointments, school activities or field trips) must make arrangements to make up missing quizzes and tests. Missing quizzes and tests must be made up within 5 school days after returning to class. If there is a situation or condition that requires further discussion, please feel free to contact me at the e-mail address listed at the top of this page.

HOW CAN A PARENT/GUARDIAN HELP?

1. Visit my website at www.lhmsgodfrey.weebly.com – go to daily agenda.
2. Check the work your student plans to hand in the next class meeting. It is complete? Does it make sense? Can your student answer random questions from the assignment?

The students need to be in class, on time, with the following supplies:

1. At least 3 sharpened, ready to use pencils (mechanical preferred – with an ample supply of lead - pens are not allowed in my classroom.)
2. A silent, personal, self-contained pencil sharpener (one that retains it's own shavings & can be emptied between classes.)
3. At least 4 sheets, daily, - of white, lined, college-ruled notebook paper.
4. 1 single subject spiral notebook (to be used for our daily journal)
5. SSR book (District mandated sustained silent reading; it counts as class work)
6. A 2 to 3 inch three ring notebook paper sized binder to be kept at home for returned paperwork, parent/teacher communications and notifications.
7. Colored pencils or non-toxic color markers to be kept at home and brought when needed for various map activities and projects

CITIZENSHIP

All students must follow school rules. Being in class on time, participating, and complying with the teachers' instructions regarding work counts towards citizenship. **If a student fails to turn in a project, or if there are a significant number of missing Independent Practice assignments, it may also affect citizenship.** Our discipline policy is progressive. If a consequence is not effective, we will move on to more serious consequences such as removal from class, Saturday School, and suspension.

School and classroom consequences follow the school-wide discipline procedures in place at Lone Hill Middle School. They are listed in your student's student planner / agenda book, given to each student at the beginning of the school year. **Please carefully review them with your student.** These procedures can also be reviewed on line - please click on "discipline policy" on the Lone Hill website.

CLASS RULES

See "Mr. Godfrey's class rules" for classroom behavior rules. (Please see the separate sheet provided for classroom behavior. They are designed to minimize wasted class time and eliminate trivialities.)

I'm available for student questions in my room all mornings (meetings excluded) from 8:15 to 9:00, and again from 3:30 to 4:30. I'm here to help. Encourage your student to please feel free to come in and discuss any and all issues during these times.

Please feel free to contact me at any time. I welcome appointments to see me after school.

Thank you!
J. Godfrey

www.lhmsgodfrey.weebly.com