



Mr. Mitchell's Social Studies Class
Alan Shawn Feinstein Middle School of Coventry
Team 7D (7th Grade)
2009-20010

Dear Parents/Guardians & Students,

I look forward to working with you during the next two years. ***Please read the following carefully and sign at the bottom.*** Feel free to email me with any questions or call the school at 822-9426.

1. **CURRICULUM:** All classes will follow the 7th grade [World History curriculum](#) this year. We will cover the following units of study: Early Humans, Ancient Egypt and the Near East, Ancient India, Ancient Greece, and Ancient Rome. We will learn about these events through the lens of our [Grade-Span Thematic Essential Questions](#). The focus or goal will be to understand the past in order to understand our present. By using these themes that are relevant in the past and present, it is easier for students to understand why and how what we cover relates to their life. (All of the lessons, video, handouts, etc. can be found online from my class website – see *below*.)
2. **CURRENT EVENTS CONNECTION:** All students will be required to find current articles in newspapers, magazines, online news sources, etc. that connect to the Grade-Span Thematic Essential Questions. (Current Events Webpage) Due dates will be posted online and detailed directions will be handed out.
3. **PORTFOLIOS:** All students will be required to keep a working portfolio of their work in class. I will provide a file cabinet for this purpose. Their work will be compiled according to evidence of their understanding of the Grade-Span Thematic Essential Questions in our World History Curriculum.
4. **Textbook:** Each student will receive a copy of [Prentice Hall's World Explorer: The Ancient World](#). They are responsible for it and will be charged if they lose it. It must be covered to protect it for future student use.
5. **EMAIL/CONTACT ME:** [trmitchell31@yahoo.com] The best way to contact me is through email. If you have access problems, send a note in your school agenda or call the school at 822-9426. I check email frequently every day and will get back to you promptly
6. **STUDENT EMAIL:** All students will need to maintain a web-based email account. This account has to be accessible through the school and home computers. Yahoo, Google, AOL, Hotmail, etc. offer free accounts. This is very important. Please do your best to complete this task as soon as possible. I have 5 desktop stations connected to the Internet for my students within my classroom that can be used to set up these accounts. The purpose of this is for communication, such as

forwarding an assignment to me or to them, etc. *(Our school system has a strict censorship software program that bans inappropriate material. All students will also be monitored while they are online. I can help you find a filter for your home computer if you are interested.)*

7. **PROJECTS/EVALUATION:** All students will participate in class and group projects during the year. It is essential that students learn to work with each other effectively, yet understand that all students will receive an individual grade. I use teacher, peer, and self-evaluations to best determine individual contributions. There will be defined standards and expectations for all assignments.
8. **CLASS WEBSITE:** I own and maintain my website at www.mitchellteachers.org. (I share it with my wife who teaches in Cranston) You also can get to it through the school's website, as well. Please browse the site and familiarize yourself with the content.* Class assignments are posted on it. Except for textbook readings and questions, all work may be downloaded from the site, including some video. While some assignments cannot be posted as they are implemented in class, substitutions will be posted in case a student cannot attend school that day. Obviously, most tests or quizzes will have to be completed in school. There are a few highlights about the website you should be aware of: **If you are not online at home, hard copies and traditional methods will be provided for and sent home. You might be able to check from work or the public library?*
 - A. **Weekly Agenda** - The class schedule will be posted here. I cannot promise that it will be adhered to strictly. Some lessons go quickly and others take longer than expected. Fire drills, last minute team schedule changes, etc. happen. But, you will have a good idea what we are doing in class when I post it by the prior weekend.
 - B. **Trimester Assignment List** - All assignments we cover will be posted on this page. If days are missed or the dog ate the work, it may be printed out or completed online.
 - C. **Grades** - All my grades will be done in Microsoft Excel (spreadsheet program) and I will continually post them on the website. You will need a password to see the page.

Username: *Email me for these*

Password:

All students have been assigned a number (each student will be told to write down this number. If you are not informed of this, email me for the *real* one). In this way, students and parents may see how well all are doing and what they have done so far. I'm sure every student's progress will be monitored and admired from home or work.

Please sign below indicating that you have read the above.

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____

Thank You,
Ted Mitchell – Team 7D Social Studies
Alan Shawn Feinstein Middle School of Coventry