

## ***8<sup>th</sup> Grade Georgia Studies*** ***Ms. Christensen***

**Purpose:** Study the geography, history, government, and economy of the state in order to understand the role Georgia plays in American history.

**Supplies:** In addition to basic supplies of notebook paper, pencils, please see below:

**ALSO, please be advised that students WILL KEEP ALL MATERIALS WITH THEM. NO lockers at the beginning of the year.**

- Notebook (1" is fine)
- 70-100 page spiral notebook (for journals only)
- 3 prong pocket folder with blank notebook paper
- Highlighter
- Colored pencils

**Textbook:** We do not issue textbooks. However, if you would like for your student to have a textbook sent home, please let me know so one can be issued and returned at the end of school.

**Online Textbook:** Georgia Studies Digital Textbook:

<http://www.gpb.org/education/georgia-studies/digital-textbook>

New Georgia Encyclopedia:

<https://www.georgiaencyclopedia.org/>

**Technology:** In today's digital world, technology is becoming a vital tool in the classroom. All classes will be using electronic devices throughout the year. Each student is encouraged to have a personal electronic device as well as some type of earbuds on the days students will be working online.

**Inquiry Based Classroom:** In an inquiry-based classroom, students are encouraged to take ownership of their learning as they develop skills that will help them prepare for high school as they become independent learners. To accomplish this mindset this year, students will:

- Preview assigned online material/videos at home before coming to class to build background information.
- Learn how to develop in-depth closed and open-ended questions to help stimulate interest in a topic.
- Develop research skills that results in detailed and focused information.

### **Contacting me**

- E-mail is the best way: schristensen@paulding.k12.ga.us
- Handwritten note
- Call front office and leave a message
- Check Canvas: This will be sent home as soon as available
- Remind: 6<sup>th</sup> Period code: @gs62021

### **Make-up Policy: This is the student's responsibility to get work missed from being absent**

1. Check the make-up notebook located in the classroom the day you come back to school
2. Check with a classmate to copy notes, etc. if necessary
3. Ask me any questions you still have after completing number 1 and 2 above
4. You have one day for everyday you have been absent to complete the make up work and get it turned in for a grade
5. All make-up work should be clearly labeled and placed in the correct location.

### **Classroom Expectation:**

- **Come to class prepared** – make sure parents know when you need paper, pencils/pens, etc. as well as having completed and read all assignments.
- **Ask Questions** – when you do not understand material covered in class, I will be glad to help you!!!
- **Respect the learning environment** – everyone has a right learn so do not be a distraction
- **Always try** – Turning in something is always better than not turning in anything at all.

### Other Class Expectations:

ALL students will become independent learners/Thinkers as our workforce carries such expectations. They will be presented with a variety of challenging and enriching lessons throughout the year. Examples include:

- Independent inquiry-based projects
- Flipped Classroom expectations (preview assigned on-line material at home before coming to class)
- Participate in Scored discussions

### Behavior Expectations: Parents please initial here \_\_\_\_\_

I expect all students to behave in class. I do not post rules because by the time they are in 8<sup>th</sup> grade they have had at least 8 years of teachers and parents telling them how to behave in class. I expect them to know how to behave. However, if there is a problem that arises, I will talk to the student first. I believe 8<sup>th</sup> graders need to have a chance to self-correct on their own. If the problem continues, I will contact a parent. I am a parent myself as well as a teacher of 10 years, I believe that if the student knows there is consistent communication between school and home then the behavior will improve. It is my goal to help all my students be successful so I will do everything I can to help them.

### Units we will study through the year:

- Georgia Geography
- History:
  - Exploration / Colonization
  - American Revolution / Statehood
  - Westward Expansion
  - Civil War
  - Reconstruction
  - New South
  - 20<sup>th</sup> Century: WWI / Depression / WWII
  - Post WWII
  - Civil Rights
  - Modern Georgia
- Economy
  - Our transportation systems
  - Georgia based businesses
  - Personal money management
- Government:
  - Foundation of Government
  - State government
    - Executive Branch
    - Legislative Branch
    - Judicial Branch
  - Adult / Juvenile Justice System
  - Role of Citizens

I have read over the class letter and understand the policies for Mrs. Braswell's Regular Georgia Studies class.

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**Student Name** (please print)

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**Parent Signature**