



History - Ancient Civilizations



Claremont Middle School 2018-2019

Ms. Fortaleza Room 4

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* Home Access to Ms. Fortaleza's PowerPoints and Materials (Google Drive):

<https://tinyurl.com/MsFortalezaHistory1819>

WELCOME!

Welcome to Ms. Fortaleza's History class! I'm so excited to have you in my class! Using ancient history content, students will also learn valuable skills such as argumentative writing, map reading, timelines, multiple and diverse perspectives, cooperative learning, critical thinking, and rigorous academic language through reading, writing, and class discussions.

REMIND 101

I have a mass texting app for families who would like to stay in the loop with homework, class announcements, field trips, etc.

To subscribe via text: Text the message "@fortaleza" to 81010

If anyone has trouble with 81010, they can try texting @fortaleza to (510) 858-0984

To subscribe via email: Send a blank email to fortaleza@mail.remind.com

To subscribe via website: Go to the link <https://www.remind.com/join/fortaleza>

Ancient Civilizations

we will study

- Early Humans
- Mesopotamia
- Egypt & Kush
- Hebrews
- India
- China
- Greece & Rome

We are all readers AND writers! In History, we write and tell stories about our past, present and future to make sense of the world and our experiences. We will develop the reading and writing skills needed to be able to comprehend and interpret those stories critically. We will use big, essential questions to explore both historical and literary content, and we will gain critical skills and deeper knowledge to make differences in the world around us – in our homes, schools, and larger communities. Although we will be learning about ancient history, the main focus of this class is to develop academic skills in argumentative writing, which requires the author to thoroughly investigate a topic, generate a position on that topic, and then collect and analyze evidence to support their claim. It is the style of writing most often used in college and in the

workplace, so building skills in this area is extremely valuable for students as they develop as writers. These skills will be assessed using the History Writing Task (HWT) at the end of each semester.

Class Goals: We will be able to...

- Think like historians to explore ancient civilizations and their influence on our world today
- Become more active, creative, and critical readers and writers
- Develop persuasive/argumentative writing skills
- Become more organized, responsible students and global citizens

Homework Policy

Students will receive a weekly homework packet from me every Monday. The packet usually consists of learning vocabulary used in class that week (unless we have a special assignment or large project). The packet contains instructions for each night of the week, and generally, homework will be due and stamped the next day to signify that it was done on time. **The entire homework packet will be collected every Friday right before our weekly Vocabulary Quiz on that week's words.**

No late homework is accepted in 6th grade. Students who are absent have TWO school days once they return to submit all missed work. It is **the student's responsibility** to ask their classmates or teacher about the work missed.

In extenuating circumstances other late work may (at the teacher's discretion) be accepted for reduced credit upon conference with teacher via phone or in person.

Even with an absence, the **student is still responsible for finding out what they missed from their classmates or using the class Google Drive.** I will provide an Absent Bin and Sample Binder in class for anyone to obtain copies of assignments and materials. In the event of a family emergency, parents please contact me.

Classwork and Assessments

Students will receive a **classwork stamp** (on their weekly Do Now sheet) at the end of **each class period** when they show that they've completed the day's learning target. Students will keep the classwork organized in their **History binder (for handouts)** and/or **Humanities Notebook (for notes)** by keeping track of their **Table of Contents**.

At the end of each unit, they will design and **submit a unit packet as part of their classwork grade.**

It is essential for students to stay organized by using their planners, keeping their Humanities notebook neat, and keeping their History Binder in order with the Table of Contents. If you need help, don't be afraid to ask! However, there is only one of me, and about 160 of you, so don't wait until the last minute, otherwise I may not be able to help you before a deadline.

At the end of each unit, there will be a **summative project and/or unit test** to assess student learning.

Every Wednesday we have **World News Wednesday** during which we write about and discuss current events. This is a practice at Claremont across all three grade levels, and we encourage parents/guardians and children to discuss current events together so the conversation may continue outside of the classroom.

Grading

Exceeds Expectations	Advanced	Proficient	Approaching	Below
100 A+	90 A	80 B	70 C	60 D

Classwork 50%

Tests/Assessments 40%

Homework 10%

Students will receive **report cards** at the end of each 6-week marking period. Students receive an A-F grade for their academic work.

First **semester grades** are the average of Marking Periods 1-3. Second semester grades are the average of Marking Periods 4-6. Marking Period grades are not entered on students' permanent records, only semester grades.

AERIES is an excellent resource to check students' grades. Families are encouraged to sit down with their child at home at review grades on AERIES at least once per week.

Additional Policies

Bathrooms: Claremont policy is that students must use one of their bathroom passes. They receive four per class each semester. Students may not use their passes during the first and last 15 minutes of class. Ms. Fortaleza reserves the right to deny use of passes. If students require frequent bathroom use, please provide a medical note to the Front Office.

Tardy: Students are tardy if they are not in class IN YOUR SEAT ready to learn by the time the bell rings.

Classroom Rules (all 6th grade classrooms)

1. Follow directions
2. Keep hands, feet and objects to yourself
3. Listen attentively to the speaker
4. Use positive and constructive language
5. Food, gum, headwear and electronics put all away at all times (except water bottles)
6. Do your very best!

Rewards: As a whole class, students can earn **class points**. When the class earns a certain amount of points, they receive various prizes including free time, ice cream parties, potlucks, and game days. As an individual, students can earn **scholar dollars**. There's a sign in my room showing what prizes they can get such as homework passes, lunch with the teacher, and free books from my classroom library. They earn class points and scholar dollars by following classroom rules daily, participating in class work, using the proper voice levels, volunteering after school, and completing "Scholar Dollar Challenges."

Classroom Redirection Procedure - these apply to all 6th grade classrooms

Student	Description	Steps
1 st warning	Warning and reminder of preferred behavior	Student's name goes on board
2 nd warning	Move seat and/or talk with teacher	1st check mark next to name
3 rd warning	Call home	2nd check mark next to name
4 th warning	Student receives <i>Referral</i> to the office which goes on record	Circle next to name
<p>** "Don't argue with the ref" If a student chooses to have a conversation about a redirection in the moment, they will earn another redirection. *** Egregious behaviors will result in immediate administrative action. ****Students begin each day with a fresh start.</p>		

How Parents Can Help Students At Home

1. **Review student Planner together each night:** Parent checks and then signs bottom of planner when student SHOWS that all homework is done for each class. [note: If student is not copying down homework each day in school, parents, please notify teacher immediately.] **It is your responsibility to check on your child's progress if you are concerned.**
2. **Limit student's screen time** (video games, phones, computers, TV, etc...) to ___ hours per day and no later than _____pm at night (differs between families. You know what your family needs!)
3. **Take students to the public library** to browse and check out a couple of books. Create an incentive system for finishing a book. Encourage your child to share what they're reading, what's going on in the story favorite characters or quotes, lingering questions, personal connections, etc...
4. **Teach students strategies** for staying organized, being independent, arriving on time, meeting due dates, making friends, stress management and staying healthy while they go through this huge transitional year.

Parent Commitment

Your child's classroom experience can be magnitudes more powerful with your support and ongoing commitment. As we are a public school funds are short – please help us purchase the supplies we will need for the fun projects and experiences ahead. Gift cards to Office Depot, Michael's, etc. are always welcome. That way I can run out and get extra things for the kids when needed.

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By signing, I confirm that I have read this syllabus with my student. **(DUE Fri 8/31)**

Parent/Guardian Name: _____ Student Name: _____
 Parent/Guardian Signature: _____ Date: _____