**LANGSTON CHARTER MIDDLE SCHOOL**

**Social Studies Department**

**Mr. Jim Van Valkenburgh**

**Email:** [**jvanval@langstoncharter.org**](mailto:jvanval@langstoncharter.org)

**Website:** [**http://jimvanlangston.weebly.com/**](http://jimvanlangston.weebly.com/)

Welcome to Langston Charter Middle School and to my sixth grade Social Studies class. I hope this school year is going to be a wonderful experience for all of us. This handout will help you understand what will be expected in my class and what you need to help you succeed. Setting personal goals for what you want to achieve will motivate you to push towards the finish line.

**GRADING**

District grading scale:

**A 90 -100%**

**B 80 - 89%**

**C 70 - 79% D 60 - 69% F 59 & below**

**Grades will be organized as follows:**

4 Major Grades (Tests/Projects) 100 pts. ea.

Minor Grades (Homework and Quizzes)

25 -50 pts. ea.

**HOMEWORK**

Expect homework assignments covering new material about twice a week. To receive credit, all homework **must** be turned in **the day it is due**. Homework builds on class work. To keep up with the work done in class, students are expected to make up all missing assignments.

**LATE WORK**

**No credit** will be given for late homework. Work turned in after the assigned due date will receive a **zero**. An “oops pass” may be used to gain one extra day to turn in regular homework assignments. The assignment must still be turned in the **next day accompanied with the appropriate oops pass which has been filled out and signed by the parent or guardian of the student.**

Late projects will be penalized **10% per day late**. An **“OOPS”** pass cannot be used on projects or major assignments.

A few missing assignments can really take a toll on a student’s grade, so each student **must** take responsibility for turning in their own work.

**MAKE-UP WORK**

* Due **one week** from the day the student returns from an absence. A zero will be entered into the grade book and kept until the student completes and submits the missing assignment.
* Make-up work will be placed (with student names) in the grade-appropriate folder posted in class. Students are responsible to collect make-up work from these folders.
* when they return to class. Students can also access make-up assignments from their TEAMS class folder and my personal website: [**http://jimvanlangston.weebly.com/**](http://jimvanlangston.weebly.com/)
* Tests or quizzes can be made up on **Friday mornings or afternoons** during the school supervised make-up time**.** Please see me as soon as you return to class so I can have your materials ready for you when you go to make up your work. **Tests and quizzes must be made up within three weeks after returning to school.**

**CLASS EXPECTATIONS**

Each student is expected to:

* Treat all others in the classroom with **respect**.
* Take personal **responsibility** for their actions and attitudes.
* Strive for **quality** work.
* Chewing gum is **prohibited** at Langston.
* **Eating food in the classroom is prohibited except during lunch or if Mr. Van gives permission to do so.**
* **Smart watches are prohibited at Langston unless given prior permission by the administration.**
* **Cell phones are prohibited at Langston. If your cell phone is seen or heard by a teacher or administrator, it will be confiscated and kept in the office for 10 school days.**
* Bring his/her own **materials** to class, including paper, pens, pencils, etc.
* Students are expected to bring their agenda and class notebook (folder) to class every day, unless instructed by Mr. Van to do otherwise.
* **1st Period Students are to have a book to read in the morning until class begins at 8:30.**
* Once seated, students are to place their agenda on the corner of their desks and be prepared to write down any homework or upcoming quizzes, tests, or projects.
* Ask **questions** regarding any concepts that are unclear.
* **Prepare** for class by using the restroom, sharpening pencils, etc. before class begins.
* Students **are not allowed** to play with toys in my classroom unless given permission by me. This includes slime, putty, Rubik’s cubes, toy balls or any other toys that could distract other students and disrupt the class. The main reason for eliminating slime and putty from my classroom is to prevent the spread of infectious viruses and outbreaks. **Failure to comply** with this rule will result in a verbal warning the first time and an e-mail will go home explaining the offense. The second time it happens, the object will be confiscated until the next school day and an e-mail will be sent home explaining the offense and the consequences of a third offense. The third time the offense occurs, an e-mail will be sent home and the student will be given **the wall during lunch**.
* Students are not to read books for other classes or personal use during class time unless given permission by the teacher. If caught reading during class unless given permission by the teacher, the student will be penalized. The first offense will result in a verbal warning. The second offense will result in the book being confiscated until the end of class and an e-mail sent home explaining the offense. The third offense will result in the book being confiscated for one week and an e-mail sent home explaining the offense. If the student continues to break this rule, the wall will be given.

**ASSIGNMENT POSTING**

I will be posting our daily assignments as well as any special instructions on TEAMS and my website: [**http://jimvanlangston.weebly.com**](http://jimvanlangston.weebly.com)**.** This resource does not replace the consistent use of the student planner but is a supplemental tool for parents to keep up with what we are doing in class.

**PARENTAL COMMUNICATION**

Please feel free to contact me regarding questions or concerns at any point. The best mode of contact is email, at **jvanval@langstoncharter.org**. You may also reach me while at school via telephone (**864-286-9700**). Please leave a message with Mrs. Sim during school hours, and I will return your call as promptly as I am able. If you wish to speak with me in person, please do not hesitate to set up an appointment. I encourage parental involvement and welcome your contact at any time, even if you just wish to check on your child’s progress in class.

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**PLEASE KEEP THE INFORMATION ABOVE THE LINE AND RETURN THE BOTTOM PORTION TO MR. VAN BY Friday, AUGUST 11th**

***We have read, understood, and discussed the above information.***

**Student Name (print):**

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**Period: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Student Signature: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Parent (Guardian) Signature: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**