Dear Parents and Guardians,

I wanted to take a moment to tell you how grateful I am to have the opportunity to work with your child and teach them 6th grade social studies. We will be studying world civilizations from the first civilization in Mesopotamia to the current age. I am so excited to share this interesting subject with your child.

I earned my undergraduate degree in history from Kennesaw State University and my Master of Education in Teaching from Clemson University. My wife and I have two sons of our own, one is 24 and the other is 21 years old, so I know what it is like to raise children this age! I know kids are easily bored, so I plan to teach your child in a manner that will be fun and educational at the same time.

We will not only be learning about world civilizations, but also about how to read and analyze historical documents and primary sources. When possible, your child will be working with other students during collaborative learning, where they will work on research projects and present their findings to the class.

To help your child, succeed in my class I welcome your support and involvement in this class. If you would like to volunteer to visit our class and share anything related to our study unit, please feel free to contact me.

You will find more information on my school website, explaining what we will be studying and upcoming assignments. You will also find my list of class expectations on the website, so please look them over and discuss them with your child. They should already be familiar with these expectations because we reviewed them in class, but it helps when a parent can discuss them with their child too.

Finally, I like to use the Remind app to keep parents and guardians in the loop. If you go to the welcome page of my website, you can find information about the app and how to sign up for class messages on Remind. Also, each student will receive a handout regarding the Remind app. They will receive the handout on the first day of school.

Please let me know if you have any questions or if there is anything I can do to help your child succeed or feel more comfortable in the classroom! I look forward to meeting you soon.

Sincerely yours,

Jim Van Valkenburgh

864-286-9700 (school)

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