

# ga studies syllabus

It's going to be a great year of learning!  
Veterans Memorial Middle School, 2022-2023

<b>Instructor</b>	Mrs. Vanessa Ellis <i>2022 MCSD Teacher of the Year</i> <i>2017 GA Econ Teacher of the Year</i> <i>2018 Harvard Fellow</i>	<b>E-mail</b>	Ellis.Vanessa.I@muscogee.k12.ga.us
		<b>Website</b>	<a href="http://heymrsellis.weebly.com/">http://heymrsellis.weebly.com/</a>
<b>Phone</b>	706-748-3203	<b>School Hours</b>	8:50 a.m. to 3:50 p.m.
<b>Address</b>	2008 Old Guard Road Columbus, Georgia 31909	<b>Planning Period</b>	1:43-2:40 p.m. (Mon, Tue, Wed)
			1:50-2:42 p.m. (Thur, Fri)

## course overview

In eighth grade, students study the geography, history, government and economics of the state of Georgia. Students take a state standardized test ([GMAS](#)) at the end of the school year to measure how well they have learned the knowledge and skills outlined in the social studies state content standards.

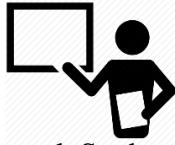
## in this class you will

<b>Become an informed, aware, and active citizen.</b>	<b>Understand that history is complex and there are multiple perspectives to consider.</b>	<b>Exhibit the mindset and behaviors of a good learner.</b>
<i>To do this students will:</i>	<i>To do this students will:</i>	<i>To do this students will:</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Treat others with kindness and respect</li> <li>• Consider multiple perspectives on an issue</li> <li>• Evaluate the reliability and trustworthiness of sources</li> <li>• Be willing to listen to others, whether you agree or disagree</li> <li>• Clearly and respectfully communicate your perspective, orally and written</li> <li>• Recognize and appreciate diversity in your school, community, and beyond</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Read and analyze a variety of primary and secondary sources</li> <li>• Translate statistics into human experiences</li> <li>• Consider the geographic, social, political, intellectual, religious, economic, and aesthetic contexts to best understand historical events</li> <li>• Recognize that where we are from, what we believe, and who we are influences how we interpret history</li> <li>• Use history lessons to make informed judgments about the future</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Seek to truly and deeply understand the content</li> <li>• Choose spaces, materials, and behaviors that contribute to your success as a learner</li> <li>• Complete and revise assignments</li> <li>• Follow instructions and meet deadlines</li> <li>• Reflect regularly over your learning</li> <li>• Share what you learn as well as be willing to learn from others</li> <li>• Participate and ask questions</li> <li>• Take risks and have a growth mindset</li> <li>• Advocate for yourself by</li> <li>• Always do <u>your</u> personal best</li> </ul>

## what you need for class

- Spiral-bound, plastic covered notebook, 100+ pages (preferably a [Five Star Interactive Notebook](#))
- Pencils, coloring utensils (colored pencils, colored pens), Elmer's school glue, highlighters
- Gallopade student workbook (provided by school) and the online component in [Clever](#)
- Chromebook, charger, and case (provided by school)
- Headphones that plug-in or pair with Chromebook
- Download apps to your devices: | Canvas Student | Canvas Parent | Infinite Campus | GPB Education
- Donations of Kleenex, hand sanitizer, and school supplies are always greatly appreciated! ☺

# about this class



## • Learning

- In this class, learning is the goal. Students learn in different ways, at different paces, and have different life experiences that impact their learning. As a result, grades don't accurately represent learning and can actually have negative effects on students. [Research has proven this](#). So while I'm required to enter grades in the gradebook, those scores are never permanent. Students always have the opportunity to revise, resubmit, and show growth to improve.
- [Infinite Campus](#) is the district's online gradebook. It's the system used to document the grades I am required to input. However, students play a big role in determining their grades. Students will conference with me to review the work completed, progress made toward the standards, and together we determine what grade best represents their learning.
- [Canvas](#) is the district's learning management system. Besides being in the classroom, Canvas is the best place to "see" student learning and progress. Canvas has instructions for each week, assignments, quizzes, tests, reflections, study materials, etc. This is also where I provide feedback on student work. Students are required to act on the feedback to revise and resubmit assignments, quizzes, and tests in order to show improvement and progress towards the standards.
- **\*\*Infinite Campus** documents grades. **Canvas** shows the actual work students are doing. Use both platforms to get a full picture of student progress.

## • Communication

- [Canvas](#) is the learning management system used in our school district. I use Canvas for EVERYTHING: announcements, assignments, quizzes, grades, messaging, calendar, etc.
  - Download the Canvas Parent app. This [video](#) walks you through how to set it up.

## • Interactive Student Notebooks (ISNs)

- [The ISN](#) is a student-created journal where all the learning for the year is documented. It is essential to student success in this course. Please invest in [a high-quality notebook](#) so it will last all year long.

## • Absent?

- I enjoy school most when all of my students are present, engaged and learning! But if you have to be out for any reason, please go to [Canvas](#) and do the following:
  - Check Canvas announcements and do the weekly check-in
  - Go to modules and review the weekly learning schedule
  - Seek help and support from your teachers and/or peers if you are unclear of what you missed
- Parents, if you aren't monitoring your student in Canvas, you can also check the [class website](#).

## • Home Learning

- Students will not have much homework because we do most of the work in class. They are expected to study regularly at home using their ISN, the gallopade workbook, and the study links in Canvas.
- Any unfinished classwork should be completed before class the next day, or students risk falling behind.
- I also encourage students, where possible, to engage in "real-life" social studies. Examples include:
  - Read/ watch the news, exploring multiple sources to consider different viewpoints
  - Tour local and state historical sites and museums
  - Speak with business owners about their impact on the local economy
  - Voting with your parents
  - Attend civic gatherings and hear elected officials speak
  - Take nature walks and explore the natural geography of our area
  - Notice population patterns and the layout of urban and rural places as you travel

# helpful links

[MCSD Website](#) | [Georgia Studies Standards](#) | [Class Website](#) | [Class Instagram](#) | [Class Twitter](#) | [YouTube Channel](#) | [Donors Choose](#) | [Researched-based Study Strategies](#) | [Quizlet](#) |

# School wide PBIS system

PBIS stands for positive behavioral intervention and supports. We focus on teaching expected behaviors, being proactive, and rewarding students who do the right thing. Familiarize yourself with our school-wide expectations in the matrix below:

Expectations	Entry	Work Session	Exit	Electronic Devices
<b>G</b> Growth Mindset	-Check daily agenda	-Participate -Contribute to the discussion -Listen to all ideas -Ask questions -When classwork is completed, work on district mandates (Lexia, Achieve 3000, IXL)	-Complete mini quiz	-Use Chromebooks for learning
<b>R</b> Respectful	-Enter quietly and sit in your assigned seat	-Stay in your assigned seat or area as directed -Listen without commenting when others are speaking -Be patient when waiting to speak	-Clean up your materials and area -Put seating back to original position -Wait to be dismissed by teacher	-Take care of your Chromebook -Use headphones/earbuds only when instructed -All non-Chromebook electronics should be powered off and out of sight
<b>I</b> Integrity	-Be on time -Begin your smart start	-Complete your own work -Keep the legs of the chair on the floor -Keep your materials, hands and feet to yourself -Use kind words	- Return materials you borrowed to their correct place -Turn in all completed work on time	-Come to class with charged Chromebook -Use Chromebook as instructed -Stay on appropriate websites - Stay on task
<b>T</b> Teachable	-Come prepared with appropriate materials, homework, assignments	-Listen -Follow directions -Stay on task	-Write down your homework/ reminders	-Ask for help when you need it -Use professional courtesy - Check Canvas and Infinite Campus daily

*\*Please print this sheet off, sign, and return OR write a letter, email, or Canvas message acknowledging that you have read the syllabus and discussion guidelines with a parent. Student and parent signatures are required.*

I have read the information regarding the information and policies of Mrs. Ellis' class for the 2022-2023 school year. I agree to assist the teacher in the implementation of these policies and pledge my cooperation.

X \_\_\_\_\_ (Student Signature)

X \_\_\_\_\_ (Parent Signature)