

**WELCOME TO BACK TO
SCHOOL NIGHT
2015-2016**

Miss Lilek
Room 325
HR: 8L and
Social Studies

CONTACT INFORMATION

- Contact: glilek@sfxlg.org or (708) 352-2175
- For issues of concern, please call school to speak with me directly OR email me with a time I can call you. I do prefer phone conversations over email.
- For all other questions/comments, email works well.
- Please note, I will be in graduate school this year, my meeting times for the fall will be limited to before school (any day) and after school on Tuesdays. I apologize in advance for any inconvenience this may cause; I will do my best to accommodate.

8TH GRADE ACTIVITIES 2015-2016

- 8th graders have TWO picture days: regular school pictures (September 4th) and graduation pictures (January 11th).
- Two retreat days: one in the fall (October 23rd) and one in the spring, before graduation.
- Irons Oaks “team building” field trip (October 5th).
- Living Stations performed during Lent.
- Service Day (Friday December 4th).
- Holocaust Museum Field Trip (Thursday February 25th).
- Graduation activities (in May): Dinner, Dance, Tribute Assembly, and Six Flags field trip.

SHADOW DAYS

- Each student is allowed TWO shadow days that will not affect perfect attendance.
- LT Experience Day (Monday, November 30th) counts as ONE of TWO.
- Please remind your students to keep up with work missed on shadow days.
- Aspire Test: Date TBA
- Catholic High School Entrance Exam: January 9, 2016

UNIFORMS

- Please carefully read the Parent-Student Handbook section on Dress Code.
- Girls shoes should be neutral color (black, navy blue, brown, beige, grey). NO embellishments, NO bright colors.
- Socks for boys and girls should be solid color (black, blue, white). Nike “Elite” socks are NOT part of the SFX uniform.

MORNING MEETING

- In homeroom Monday-Friday.
- First trimester: classroom and school procedures, responsive classroom.
- Second trimester: Second Step and Roots of Respect (bullying awareness and prevention program).
- Third trimester: Quest (8th grade Abstinence/Family Life).

ONLINE HOMEWORK CALENDAR

- Accessed through: sfxhomework.wikispaces.com
- All assignments can be found here.
- Miss Lilek's class website: lilek.weebly.com

SOCIAL STUDIES

- Text for Grades 7 and 8 – America: History of Our Nation – Civil War to the Present (Prentice Hall, 2009)
- The text provides the initial framework for content and concepts studied. Supplemental materials will also be presented and discussed in class, and are a key part of both courses.

7TH GRADE SOCIAL STUDIES

- A review of the founding and the early years of the United States, the sectional crisis, the American Civil War, Reconstruction, America at the turn of the century, and the Progressive Era. In addition, the State of Illinois requires that students pass tests on the United States Constitution and the Illinois Constitution.
- We will also cover recent conflict in Sudan/other parts of Africa in conjunction with the 7th Grade Service Project.

8TH GRADE SOCIAL STUDIES

- The emergence of the US as a world power (Age of Imperialism), World War I, Roaring '20s, the Great Depression, World War II, Holocaust, Cold War, US Culture in the 1950s and 1960s, the Civil Rights Movement, the Vietnam Conflict, and topics in recent history from 1970 to the present.
- The Holocaust unit will be taught in conjunction with Religion and Literature classes.
- 8th Graders will also be working on a cumulative writing assignment in Social Studies this year. Each student will pick a topic, formulate a thesis, and complete a research assignment connecting and relating to the units we study throughout the school year. This project will be due in May, with smaller pieces of the project due throughout the year; more information to follow in the fall months.

GRADING POLICIES

- At the end of a trimester, a student's grade is determined by dividing the student's earned points by the total points possible for that trimester.
- Rubrics will be used to evaluate much of the work, with the exception of quizzes and tests. Grades are updated at least once every 2 weeks.
- Please refer to the Middle School Manual re: grading.

NOTE TAKING

- Note taking is essential in Social Studies in both 7th and 8th grade. Students receive a detailed handout concerning the format and the requirements for note taking at the beginning of the school year.
- Current research tells us that hand-writing notes utilizes more critical thinking skills than typing notes. Although we are using Chromebooks in class daily at SFX, students will continue to write notes in their notebook each day. We will spend up to half of class periods editing notes and the rest of class using Chromebooks, on most days.
- Notebooks will be graded after each test and are therefore DUE for grading on test day.

PARENT-TEACHER COMMUNICATION

- Communication between parents and teachers is essential to a child's success in school. As your child's teacher, please know that I care about your child and have his/her best interests in mind at all times. If a concern or issue arises, I will contact you immediately. Also, I welcome and invite your input about your child's progress at any time.