

Interactive Student Notebook Guidelines
Middle School Social Studies
Miss Lilek

What is the purpose of this notebook?

The purpose of the interactive notebook is to enable you to be a creative, independent, and reflective thinker and writer throughout the year. Interactive notebooks will be used for class notes as well as for other activities where you will be asked to express your own ideas, process, and/or apply the information and skills learned in this class. The interactive notebook also helps you review for tests and quizzes.

What materials do I need?

1. Plastic covered spiral bound notebook (preferably 5-subject)
2. Pens and highlighters
3. Glue stick or tape

How should my notebook be organized?

- Your notebook will contain nearly all of your work for Social Studies class, including RATN, handouts, graded quizzes, and project rubrics.
- On the first four pages you will create a Table of Contents (TOC). This will be a list of all assignments in the notebook. Each assignment will have a number, which will be recorded along with the title of the assignment in the TOC.
- Time will be spent in class daily on the organization and upkeep of the interactive notebook.

What is RATN and how do I complete it?

- RATN means “read and take notes.” Most of the homework in Social Studies class is RATN. This

homework is essential to understanding and participating in the next day’s lesson.

- Whenever you read a section of the text and take notes, those notes should be organized in an informal outline, using the heading and subheadings in the text as a guide.
- During class, you will “correct” your notes by highlighting items that are in both yours and the teacher’s notes, and adding any other information that you missed.

What do I do after class or for homework? It’s time to review and revise!

- ***Each evening for homework, read over your notes, making changes and corrections.***
- When you revise and edit your notes, you actually learn and process the content you recorded. This is a form of studying. Think of your notes as incomplete until they are edited.
- Many students find it helpful to rewrite or type the notes. If you do this, glue the revision over the originals on a right page.
- Some suggestions for things to change: add or delete material, reword or reorganize, correct spelling, add examples, highlight key points. These final steps ensure that your notes are complete and help you to review and learn the material.

How will my notebook be graded?

Notebooks will be spot checked by the teacher on a daily basis. Parents will be notified when RATN is incomplete or not done at all. ***Notebooks will be collected on test days.*** All class notes, handouts, and other assignments should be

included, even for the days on which you were absent. This includes each being recorded in the table of contents.

What happens if I am absent?

If you are absent, it is ***your responsibility*** to obtain notebook assignments from either a classmate or the teacher. You must make an appointment to come in early or stay after school. Use the teacher’s master notebook in the classroom as well as the bins with extra handouts to complete your missing assignments.

It is one of the expectations of this class that notes are taken during class lectures while reading the text, and that these notes are reviewed and revised NIGHTLY.

Notes will be checked and parents will be contacted in cases of missing, incomplete, and/or poorly done notes.

Share this handout with a parent, and both please sign on the lines below. Then, keep this handout in your notebook for reference.

Student Signature Date_____

Parent Signature Date_____