

4th Grade Social Studies

2022/2023 School Year

12/3 PM

Instructor: Adrienne Bowling, albowling84@gmail.com

I. Rationale:

This class is designed to help 4th graders learn history through journaling and geography of the states. Learning about America with Geography through Literature from Beautiful Feet Books. My favorite way to learn about history is through literature and Holling C. Holling has four wonderful books that take us through the United States and the North American continent. We will learn about the geography of our country, our landmarks, natural science, as well as the history of the many people groups that have lived and continue to live in those states. World geography is pulled into our study when we begin reading Paddle to the Sea and Seabird. This class will also include instruction in writing with several writing assignments, based on what we are learning in class. By the end of this class all students should know all 50 States and their capitals.

II. Course Aims and Outcomes:

A. Aims

My goal in this class is to teach American history and geography in a fun and hands-on way. I do want class participation, good attitudes, and assignments completed. The student must be able to write at least a few sentences without help and be able to read at least a page. If your student struggles with reading, then there will need to be parental help. Overall, I want this to be an enjoyable class and will challenge your student. There will be some mini books made and a research project, so some pages will need to be printed off. I will also send some book suggestions.

Specific Learning Outcomes

By the end of this course, students will:

Be able to know the geography of the United States, name the wildlife and many of the National Parks, be able to locate lakes and rivers. The students will be able (if they study hard) to know the 50 States and their capitals. They will also do an Indian Tribe project and learn how to do minor research.

I am wanting the students to be able to absorb the information in each unit and show comprehension through the activities.

2. Form – students must be able to read at a certain level or have parental help. They must be able to analyze the information and comprehend at some level to perform the assignments.

III. Format and Procedures:

Each class I will have an introduction to the content, as we begin I will need the students to be punctual, the needed supplies in hand, in a quiet non distracting area, and their attention focused on our class. Many times I have had students come to class without the proper materials and it slows the class down, disrupts it, or the student misses out on the activity because they were not prepared. Also for homework assignments; if the child does not do the assignments then it is very hard for me to grade their comprehension on the topic. Most parents at this age do not take grades but for the sake of the class this is how I am able to gauge whether the student is retaining the info or not.

Attendance: if the child will not be attending a certain class please let me know ahead of time and I will make sure to keep the parent updated on what happened in the class that day. Attendance is important but schedules can be changed.

Participation: is very important. Unless there is a serious problem the camera needs to be on, and the student needs to be active in listening. There will be time for questions during the lesson but since we have such a short time the students need to make sure that they do not talk over each other. I also do end of class announcements so the student will need to stay until the end of class.

Since these are only 4th graders I will not be doing many tests or quizzes, but if I have any assignments that are like this it will not be difficult at all and not complicated.

IV. My Assumptions

At this age I really just want to make learning history a lot more fun and gentle. There are times when I will teach the more difficult concepts, but my goal is to get students from being scared or shy in making mistakes when it comes to writing, speaking, spelling, and reading. This can be a fun class as long as there is good participation and good attitudes and hard work.

V. Course Requirements:

1. Prerequisites: Your student needs to be able to read on a 3rd grade level, be able to write at least a paragraph, and be able to sit for at least the 40 min and dialogue with the teacher.
2. Class attendance and participation policy: Please attend class and if you miss just send me a quick message letting me know.

3. Course readings:

Required text: You will need to purchase the Students will need the four Holling C. Holling books and the maps that Beautiful Feet Books sells for this curriculum. The books make excellent gifts from grandparents. Students will also need a 3-ring binder with at least 4 sections. You can also just print the maps online and keep them in their binder.

VI. Expectations for Parents

- Set aside a calm, quiet, distraction-free space for your child(ren) to work every day.
- Ensure virtual learning equipment is available and charged.
- Establish routines and expectations and a basic schedule for completing classwork.
- Help students ‘own’ their learning.
- Check Edmodo for communications from teachers and help students print off resources that are provided.
- Stay abreast of teacher feedback in the form of grades or other messages.
- Proctor tests, quizzes, or other assessments as scheduled by the teacher. Parents ensure academic integrity because they are on the “live” side of the screen.
- Communicate with teachers regularly via email or Edmodo regarding any questions or issues that arise.
- If your child is having trouble completing work, please email the teacher to schedule a time for an online meeting.

VII. Grading Procedures

Grades will be weighted on the following scale:

50% — Completed work

30 % — Participation

20 % — Projects/Quizzes/Tests

I have a rubric that I go by that helps with my grading. This allows the students to understand how their efforts are measured.

I am very lenient about late papers at this grade level, but after a few reminders the papers will start getting late marks. I generally take -5 points off for late papers.

VIII. Academic Integrity

This is very simple. We are all Christians and honesty and integrity is a very important virtue to teach our children. I want the papers to be what YOUR child has done and accomplished. Some parents like to hide their child’s struggles or weaknesses in a subject. I cannot help a student if I don’t know what their weaknesses are. I also want the students to give me their best work and

effort and that looks different for everyone. Some are advanced in a certain area while they struggle in another area. And that is JUST FINE! I am looking at effort not perfection!

IX. Tentative Course Schedule

We will be doing 2 books per semester. Fall—Paddle to the Sea and Seabird Spring—Tree in the Trail and the last book is Minn of Mississippi.

X. Resource Readings

I will give out additional reading resources if for the students for extra credit or for their own personal use.