

How can you help your child?

- Ask what we're studying in class. (Don't accept ,"Nothing," as the answer.)
- Study maps together.
- Discuss current events.
- Discuss what it means to live in a democracy.
- Check out the History and National Geographic channel listings and consider watching some of the shows with your child.
- Provide a place and time to do homework.
- Help your child organize school materials. He/she might need tips/help in getting or staying organized.
- Communicate with school. Don't hesitate to call whenever you have questions.
- Don't miss out on attending parent-teacher conferences and special events at school.

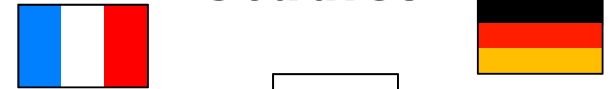
A Little About Myself

After graduating from Western Michigan University, My husband Tom and I moved north. I taught 7th grade Language Arts and Social Studies at Charlevoix Middle School for 8 years and then stayed home while our children, Kate and Nicholas, were small.

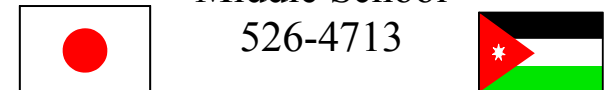
As many of you know, I worked at Shay in the Title One Reading program for 4 years before returning to middle school in 2001. I am thoroughly enjoying the opportunity to work with your children and appreciate the wonderful support I have received.



Welcome to 7th Grade Social Studies



Mrs. Nagurka
Harbor Springs
Middle School
526-4713



Greetings

Welcome to 7th grade Social Studies. This year we will be “traveling” through the Eastern Hemisphere.

In preparation for our year-long trip, we will begin with a review of map skills: longitude and latitude, time zones, using different types of maps and map keys.

Our journey begins with a trip to the southern hemisphere to study Australia, Antarctica and the Pacific Islands,

Next, we will travel throughout Africa, Europe, and Asia studying their geography, more recent history, and present cultures and ways of life.

Through the year, we will continue to deepen our understanding of the core values of our democracy as we study events in history and current events from around the world.

We're going to have a wonderful year!

Written Work

Students will be completing a variety of different types of assignments this year. Many assignments will involve taking notes or writing down ideas on a topic. The main purpose is for students to focus on the topic and get ideas down on paper. Credit is given for following directions. Other assignments will require that students answer questions or write briefly about a topic. The purpose of this type of writing is to be sure that students understand the information. Both of these are single draft writing assignments and will be graded for content only.

Some assignments will partially be graded on writing skills. When the assignment is given, students will receive a scoring rubric that lists the writing skills I will be looking for in addition to the other requirements for the assignment. I will not note every error on the paper, but I will indicate errors in the specific areas listed with the assignment. Students will be encouraged to self-edit these assignments before handing them in, and we will sometimes peer-edit in class.

Grades

A point system will be used to calculate grades. Points will be earned in three areas: daily work, written work/projects, and quizzes or tests.

Daily work consists of assignments completed in class or shorter homework assignments. These will be graded “Credit/No Credit” or be given a specific point value.

Written work/projects will be assigned specific point values. These assignments will be marked down a whole grade if turned in late.

Tests and quizzes will also be used to assess mastery. These will also be given specific point values.

$$\text{Final Grade} = \frac{\text{Total Points Earned}}{\text{Total Points Possible}}$$

95-100%	A
90-94%	A-
87-89%	B+
83-86%	B
80-82%	B-
77-79%	C+
73-76%	C
70-72%	C-
67-69%	D+
63-66%	D
60-62%	D-