

**Civics**  
**Mr. Roof**

**Course Goals:**

- ★ Examine the role of government in American society.
- ★ Analyze the role of the citizen in government and society.
- ★ Participate in local government policy-making through experiential and hands-on learning.

**Course Outline:**

- ★ Citizenship
- ★ Role of Government: Role, responsibility, and powers of the federal, state and local governments
- ★ Government simulation activities
- ★ Action plan development

**Grading:**

Students will be graded based on a point system, with each assignment being worth a certain amount of points. Be sure to check the point values of assignments against the score received.

Typical point values for various assignments are as follows:

- ★ Activities/projects and cooperative learning assignments: 50-100 points
- ★ Daily classwork: 5-15 points
- ★ Homework: 5-10 points
- ★ Written reflections 10-20 points
- ★ Late submissions on projects and essays will result in a **ten percent reduction** per school day.
- ★ Extra-credit opportunities are not offered as per the Social Studies department.

**Assignment Submission:**

- ★ Assignments submitted to Google Classroom in the incorrect location are considered late.
- ★ Digital submissions that are not submitted to the proper digital location (FlipGrid, EdPuzzle, etc.) are considered late.

**Group Work:**

In any group work assignment, if a student feels that the work distribution or output is not equitable or fair, then they must inform me PRIOR to the due date.

**Participation:**

Your positive, active participation is expected. Students are expected to contribute in class discussions and effectively participate in class activities. This also includes active listening and engaging with others.

**Reading checks:**

*In order to succeed in any Social Studies course, **consistent** and **focused** completion of reading assignments as they are assigned is essential. Students are responsible for all information covered in reading assignments and should note that not all information in the reading is covered in class time. Class time is used to **elaborate** and **expand** upon major themes and ideas covered in the readings and also to deepen and ensure student understanding. Browsing online resources or using another student's notes is **not** a pathway to success in this class.*

Students should be aware that all reading assignments are subject to a reading check. Reading checks require students to exhibit mastery of the assignment by demonstrating **higher order thinking skills** and the ability to **make connections** between the reading and **broader**, and/or **contemporary** topics and themes.

### **Google Classroom & EdPuzzle:**

- ★ Class materials such as this syllabus, assignment sheets/rubrics and other resources will be posted in Google Classroom.
- ★ Daily classwork assignments will be posted on Google Classroom.
- ★ Videos and other multimedia assigned for homework will be accessed through EdPuzzle.

### **PowerSchool**

- ★ Grades are posted to PowerSchool.
- ★ Missing/late assignments are marked with a **zero** until handed in.
- ★ Graded quizzes and tests will be returned with the understanding that students will keep them to study for other assessments.

**Availability:** I am available during EP on Days 1, 2, and 4.

### **Absence:**

- ★ Excused absences:
  - Students are responsible for making up missed work;
  - Students are expected to make up missed work, including tests and quizzes, **on the day they return to school;**
  - Students that are late to school or class must see me during an afternoon session to make up work that was missed.
  - Exceptions will be made in the event of an extended illness or other extenuating circumstances that arise.

*In the case of an unexcused absence (cutting class):*

*Students who cut class receive no credit for the day and receive a zero on missed work, including tests and quizzes.*

### **Email/Contact:**

- ★ Email me at [mroof@bhpsnj.org](mailto:mroof@bhpsnj.org) with any class-related questions you might have. I do my best to respond to emails as promptly as possible.
- ★ Emails written to me must contain a salutation (greeting), specific details regarding your concern/question, and a closing. Emails must follow basic email etiquette.
- ★ In the event that you have any questions outside of school or class hours, you are encouraged to email me. Be advised, however, that I may not be able to respond to an email if it is received after 9:00 p.m. on a school night.

### **Classroom Rules and Expectations:**

- ★ All classmates and teaching/school staff deserve common courtesy and respect at all times.
- ★ Under no circumstances are cell phones and wireless headphones allowed in class.
- ★ Students must bring with them to class the following daily: their charged Chromebook, headphones.
- ★ All assignments and classwork are completed with full academic integrity as outlined below.
- ★ In the event that there is a substitute teacher, students are expected to behave as if I am present.

### **Chromebook Usage:**

Students are expected to bring in their Chromebooks to class, charged, on a daily basis. Not having your Chromebook is to be unprepared for the day. Not having the ability to charge a low battery is also considered being unprepared for the day. Student use of Chromebooks in the classroom is restricted to topics and materials that correspond with the day's lesson. Students who are off-topic with their Chromebook risk negatively impacting their grade for the assignment and potentially face disciplinary action.

### **Academic Integrity:**

- ★ Cheating, copying, plagiarism (using someone else's words or ideas without citation), falsifying data, and other unauthorized use of materials is dishonest and will not be tolerated.
- ★ Any major assignment, quiz or test you turn in must contain the following statement handwritten and signed by you at the top of the first page before it can be accepted or graded:

*"On my honor I certify that this assignment is my own work and that I have neither given nor received unauthorized aid on this [test, exam, paper]."*

- ★ Cheating or plagiarism will result in a zero for the assignment.
- ★ Instances of plagiarism will be reported to the Assistant Principal.