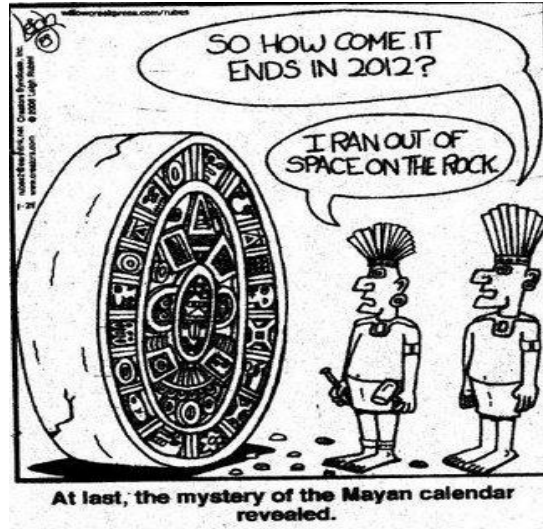


Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_



## [Mr. Mitchell's Social Studies Class](#)

Supernova Team 2012-2013

[Alan Shawn Feinstein Middle School](#)

### **Dear Parents/Guardians and Students,**

Welcome to the 8th grade! We're in the second year of a two year loop. This means you know how things run, so look over the topics below to refresh your memory and to understand any changes. We need to get ready for the transition to high school!

- 1. Curriculum:** We will start off the year with the [Ancient Greece Unit](#). (You can see the rest of the units online under curriculum). Some lessons might be abbreviated or elaborated upon depending upon class understanding and time. The goal of our curriculum is for students to understand the past in order to better understand the present.
- 2. Portfolios:** Each student will be required to keep a notebook containing assignments that will remain in the classroom. This will be used as evidence of student growth.
- 3. Current Events Blog:** All students will be required to post entries and debate within a classroom blog. Online current events resources will be posted with a focus prompt to argue.
- 4. Textbooks:** The class will use two textbooks this year: [Prentice Hall's World Explorer The Ancient World & Medieval Times to Today](#). The texts are available online and linked throughout corresponding to the online curriculum (see me for the password). I have a class set as well and will issue one to any student who has difficulty accessing the Internet at home.
- 5. Email/Contact Me:** [trmitchell31@yahoo.com](mailto:trmitchell31@yahoo.com) The best way to contact me is through email. My Yahoo! Account is much more dependable than my school account. Call the school at 822-9426 to reach me by phone and leave a message (I do not have a phone in the classroom). Given I check email everyday and on my cell phone, I will get back to you as soon as possible.
- 6. Student and Parent Email:** All students need to have a web-based email account (One that they can check and use at both school and at home). This is very important in saving work to work on at home and then at school the

Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_

next day. Most importantly, many students email me with various clarifying questions on work from home. Contact me if you are unsure what is safe for your child. As for parents, please either write in your email below or send me an email so I can create a address group to contact you as necessary. Parent and teacher communication is crucial to the success of each student.

**8. Evaluation of Behavior:** Each student will receive a Self-Directed Learner Self-Assessment, in addition to receiving grades through classroom observations by me. These grades will appear in the Learner Qualities section of the report card.

**9. [Class](#) and [Department Website](#):** While some assignments cannot be posted online as they are implemented in class, substitutions will be posted in case a student cannot attend school that day. All student handouts and texts can be accessed on the website. See me for passwords to protected documents and pages.

**10. [Agenda](#):** The class schedule will be posted here at the beginning of each week. This is subject to change given student understanding. I update this on the weekend, but at times changes are made in class and are not updated immediately online. Check the Student Agenda too or email me if you have a question. Parents: I realize how frustrating it can be when you don't have a clue as to what your child is supposed to do.

**11. [Trimester Assignment List](#):** All assignments covered and graded for the trimester will be listed here. They will also be under the Grades link, but this will tell you what grading strands each assignment falls under and provide you with an easy list of things we've covered to review for make-up work.

**12. [Grades](#):** All grades are posted online. These are updated regularly. Each student is assigned a number (Their numbers have changed this year). Please check on your child's progress frequently. (Contact me for the username and password)

***Please sign below indicating you have read and understand the class syllabus above. Please update the contact information as well.***

**Parent Email (s):** \_\_\_\_\_

**Parent/Guardian Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Student Email:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Student Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_

I look forward to a successful year,

Mr. Mitchell

**www.asfms.net**