

**Mrs. Valerie Redd**  
**Social Studies ~ Room 7**  
**562.789.2000 ~ vredd@ewcsd.org**  
**www.reddsocialstudies.com**



Dear Parents,

Welcome to Hillview Middle School! I am so glad you were able to come to Back to School Night. The eighth graders are a wonderful group and I'm having fun getting to know them!

I am a "Highly Qualified Teacher" and hold a Bachelor of Arts in Social Science, a Master of Arts in Educational Administration, a Single Subject Social Science Credential, and a CLAD Credential. I was honored as Teacher of the Year at East Whittier Middle School in 1999 and here at Hillview in 2011. The first four years of my career were spent at East Whittier Middle School teaching social studies and language arts. From there I moved to Vienna, Austria where I spent eight years working at an international school as a social studies teacher and administrator. This is my ninth year at Hillview and I have thoroughly enjoyed being back in East Whittier's educational community.

In our ever-shrinking and interdependent world, understanding the historical backgrounds and cultures of other countries is essential. It is my goal not only to educate your child in these areas, but to also develop a love for history and cultural awareness that will last a lifetime. As outlined in California's Social Studies Framework, our eighth grade social studies classes focus on U.S. History from the American Revolution to World War I. In addition, we are integrating the new national Common Core Standards, which focus on reading and writing, with our content standards.

I developed the website listed at the top of the page in order to help you stay informed and allow your child to expand his or her understanding of U.S. History. Everything you need is just a few clicks away...the daily planner, assignments, announcements, and links to games, activities, pictures, and videos that your child can explore related to each unit we will study this year.

In addition to the information you will find on my website, I will notify you of missing assignments, upcoming projects, student behavior, etc. by using Remind. Please sign up to receive the messages from Remind using the handout provided.

I'm looking forward to a wonderful year of exploring U.S. History with your eighth graders. Please don't hesitate to contact me via phone or email should you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Valerie M. Redd

## Mrs. Redd's Top 10 List Things 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Parents Should Know

1. **My Perspective:** Teaching middle school social studies is the best job in the world!
2. **Environment:** I desire for every child to reach their academic potential and feel comfortable in our learning environment. In order to achieve this goal, students must be responsible for themselves by being on task and following directions. It is expected that we will all be respectful of others and their ideas.
3. **Behavior:** Our classroom guidelines are: make a good decision, show respect, solve the problem, and have fun! Any student who chooses not to follow a given guideline will receive a warning and then a classroom detention. Should a student's behavior continue to disrupt the learning of others, the student will be removed from class and sent to the Alternative Learning Center to complete his/her work.
4. **Organization/Materials:** Organization is an important life skill and one that most middle school students struggle with. As part of our organizational training, students are expected to have all assignments listed on their "Table of Contents" with them every day in class. Feel free to check periodically to see that all assignments are in order with page numbers and titles that correspond to the "Table of Contents." All assignments can be found on our website and in the "Missed Assignments" tub in my classroom.
5. **Planner:** Check your child's planner every night to see what we did in class and what he/she has for homework. I will stamp in their planner to let you know if the homework was turned in, is missing, or was turned in late. "IC" stands for "In Class" and "HW" for "Homework."
6. **Grades:** Grades are based on the culmination of points earned on quizzes, tests, homework, classwork, notebooks, and projects. Hillview follows a 10% grading scale.
7. **Homework:** Students will have homework two to four nights a week, which should usually take them between 15-30 minutes to complete. The goal is not to simply keep the students busy, but to extend the learning, have them apply what they have learned, or use the information they have learned in a creative way.
8. **Absences:** When a student is absent, he/she has the same amount of days to make up the assignment(s) missed. It is the student's responsibility to copy down what they missed from the planner, obtain all assignments out of the "Missed Assignments" folder or download them from the website, and talk to me if he/she has any questions.
9. **Late Work:** Classwork and homework need to be turned in on time. Students may turn in missing assignments the next day for a passing grade (D).
10. **Contact:** Please feel free to check my website [www.reddsocialstudies.com](http://www.reddsocialstudies.com), call, email, check the parent portal and send in written notes. I will keep in touch with you via Remind text messages as well progress reports that students will bring home every three weeks or so.