

6th Grade Humanities (English and Social Studies)
Mr. Farber, Hampstead Hill Academy

Students and parents may contact Mr. Farber by using Class Dojo, emailing jfarber@hha47.org or by calling him at 410-404-3290.

*Please follow the directions on the **Class Dojo** invitation that your child brought home. Mr. Farber will use Class Dojo to send you individual messages about your child, messages to the whole 6th grade class, and news from the classroom throughout the year. Class Dojo is a phenomenal communication tool, and it's fun to use!*

In 6th Grade Humanities, students will focus on developing strong reading, writing, speaking and thinking skills. Students will be challenged and engaged every day in the following:

English: Springboard Curriculum

For English this year, students will be using The College Board's *Springboard* curriculum. All work will be completed on Google Classroom, and students will have a workbook that we will use in class, as well. Students will be able to access the *Springboard* textbook online. Each unit will end with an "embedded assessment," which will be a cumulative project that asks students to write a narrative or essay.

Social Studies: National History Day

Students will be participating in a year-long academic research project sponsored by the National History Day Foundation. Students must successfully complete NHD in order to earn the honors history credit. This year's theme is "Breaking Barriers ." Students will be creating research-based projects that may include:

- Research paper
- A museum-style exhibit
- Website

Social Studies: Ancient Civilizations

We will follow the city's sixth grade Ancient Civilizations curriculum for history in quarter 3 and quarter 4. There is a great deal of knowledge to be learned about each of these civilizations, so students will study them through specific lenses as they learn to think like historians. Students will be studying:

- Ancient Mesopotamia
- Ancient Egypt
- Ancient Americas
- Ancient Greece
- Ancient Rome

Writing

Students will write daily in class in both informal and formal styles throughout the year. The writing process will be used (prewriting, drafting, editing, revising, publishing) as students explore different types of writing and different purposes for

writing. Writing skills are extremely important to succeed at the best Baltimore City high schools and the most prestigious colleges and universities.

Vocabulary

Students can expect to have a quiz on 10 new vocabulary words every other Friday. We will learn and practice the words in class, but the words can also be studied using Mr. Farber's Quizlet page (quizlet.com/MrFarberHHA).

Grammar

The study of grammar will be used to improve reading, writing and speaking skills. Students will follow Common Core State Standards in order to gain command of the conventions of Standard English grammar usage when writing and speaking.

Google Classroom

Almost every assignment that students will complete in 6th grade humanities will be done on Google Classroom using Chromebooks. Parents/guardians, please ask your child to share their login information for Google Classroom with you, as this will allow you to see every assignment that they are given. You will also be able to monitor their progress on their assignments.

Mr. Farber's Classroom Rules

- Keep hands, feet, and all objects to yourself
- Follow directions the first time they are given
- Raise your hand and talk only when it's your turn
- Stay in your seat unless given permission to be up
- No food or drink without Mr. Farber's permission (except water)
- Keep personal electronics off and away

Student Behavior and Consequences

Students are expected to behave in accordance with the classroom rules. Failure to follow the rules will result in specific consequences that are consistent with the middle school consequences for Hampstead Hill Academy.

1. Verbal warning
2. 1st Demerit
3. 2nd Demerit (restorative conference with Mr. Farber)
4. 3rd Demerit (restorative referral to Mr. Plunk)
5. Detention
6. Parent conference and/or office referral

In most cases, consequences will be given in the order shown. *However, in some cases, certain consequences may be skipped if the teacher decides such action is necessary.*

Grading

Students will receive progress reports from Mr. Farber to give them feedback on their grades in class, and grades are weighted in the following categories:

- *Classwork (30%)*
- *Assessments (60%)*
- *Homework (10%)*

Homework

In Mr. Farber's class, homework will be assigned every night. Homework will usually involve reading independently from a novel assigned to the class and answering questions about it. Homework will be completed online using ActivelyLearn.com. If you think your student will have a difficult time completing homework online, please let me know immediately.

Students are given time at the beginning of class to write down their homework assignments in their agenda book, and Mr. Farber will check to ensure that this is done daily. The agenda book provides a great way for parents to follow up with students about their homework.

Portfolios

Throughout the year, students will be compiling their best work into a 6th grade student work portfolio. Students will end the year with three portfolio pieces per class (9 portfolio pieces total).

Coach Class

Humanities coach class will be held after school on Thursdays, from 2:40-3:30 pm.