

**2015-2016 Ms. D.McKean**

**Dear Students and Parents/ Guardians,**

Welcome to BHS! My name is Denise McKean and I will be teaching Social Studies 7. I have designed this course as an exciting and dynamic medium to explore traditional Social Studies topics through a curriculum focus of empowerment. The remainder of this handout will provide you with specific information about the course.

**Overview of the Program:**

* **Unit 1: Empowerment-** Students will explore the different types of empowerment and how it feels to be disempowered.
* **Unit 2: Economic Empowerment-** Students will examine how economic systems work by looking at traditional and modern day economies.
* **Unit 3: Political Empowerment-** Students will investigate the people and events that led to Confederation.
* **Unit 4: Cultural Empowerment-** Students will study how the conflicts and compromises of a variety of cultures created a Canadian society.
* **Unit 5: Societal Empowerment-** Students will reflect on the social changes of the 20th century.
* **Unit 6: National Empowerment-** Students will learn about how Canada became a stronger independent nation.

**Expectations for Student Success**

* **Respect-** Students are expected to respect themselves, their classmates and their teacher. Also they should be respectful of their surroundings. The classroom is equipped for students and they should treat it accordingly.
* **Preparedness-** Students should come to class with all required materials, such as their binder, a writing utensil, iPad, and any special supplies for the day’s class. This also includes completing homework and assignments *on time*. Due dates will be provided in class and can be found at:[**www.msmckeanshomeworkpage.weebly.com**](http://www.msmckeanshomeworkpage.weebly.com)
* **Routines-** Students are expected to attend class on time. If a student misses class, they are responsible to get the work that they have missed. All work will be available in the “Missed Handouts” file. If a test/quiz/ assignment deadline is missed, it is the student’s responsibility to write a make-up or submit their work on the day they return, unless discussed beforehand. Student work will be submitted in the class Pass In Bin OR electronically via the app Showbie.
* **Behaviour-** All students are expected to exhibit appropriate behaviour, including a positive attitude, proper usage of personal technology devices, and appropriate language. Specific BJSHS rules and regulations can be found in the Student Handbook provided at the beginning of the school year.

**Required Materials:**

* iPad/ Tablet - Package of Dividers
* 3 Ring Binder - Pens and Pencils
* Looseleaf - Art Supplies (glue, scissors, markers, etc.)

**Course Assessment and Evaluation:**

The course will be assessed through a variety of means, including: class participation, rubrics, checklists, conferencing, reflections, assignments, projects, quizzes and tests. Each assessment will include suggestions on how students can further improve their progress toward expected learning outcomes.

Ample class time is provided when completing assignments and in-class work; however, if work is not completed during the allotted period, students will be expected to complete the work at home. **Homework** can be found at: **www.msmckeanshomeworkpage.weebly.com**

Student progress will be evaluated based on achievement of expected learning outcomes presented in the *Atlantic Canada Social Studies Curriculum Document*.

**90-100%-** Demonstrates *excellent* understanding and application of concepts and skills in relation to the learning outcomes.

**80-89%** - Demonstrates *very good* understanding and application of concepts and skills in relation to the learning outcomes.

**70-79%** - Demonstrates *good* understanding and application of concepts and skills in relation to the learning outcomes.

**60-69%** - Demonstrates *satisfactor*y understanding and application of concepts and skills in relation to the learning outcomes.

**50-59%-** Demonstrates *limited* understanding and application of concepts and skills in relation to the learning outcomes.

**Below 50%-** Has not met minimum requirements of the course.

If a student would like to **resubmit** an assignment, they are expected to speak with Ms. McKean in order to arrange another opportunity to meet the necessary learning outcomes. Resubmission of assignments will be done on a term-by-term basis. In order to meet necessary reporting deadlines, Ms. McKean will not be accepting resubmitted/ late work for each term after the following dates:

**Term 1- Monday, November 9**

**Term 2- Tuesday, March 29 \* These deadlines are FIRM unless extenuating**

**Term 3- Friday, June 17 circumstances are communicated. \***

**Extra Help:**

Extra help is available every **Wednesday** at lunch. If this time does not work for the student another time can be arranged. The student should communicate their learning needs with Ms. McKean so that appropriate materials may be obtained if necessary.

**Parent/ Guardian Communication:**

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel comfortable sending a note with your child, calling me at the school (541-8260), or contacting me via email at **dmckean@gnspes.ca.** I check my email on a daily basis and will get back to you in a timely manner.

Additionally, it is encouraged that both students and parents check the **PowerSchool Portal** on a regular basis. Information on specific assessments is updated routinely and it is an up-to-date way to track student progress.

I look forward to meeting and working with you throughout the course of the year. Thank you in advance for your support.

Sincerely,

Denise McKean