Social Studies: Mr Betz

About Mr. Betz/ What does he teach?

Mr. Jason Betz has been a social studies teacher for 6 years.

He teaches about basic geography, economics, and human culture, showing students the beauty and diversity of Africa and Asia. He also teaches students how to read and understand a variety of different sources and to be curious and ask questions about the world around them.

When he's not watching Star Wars, practicing his guitar, or planning his next trip to somewhere new, you can find Mr. Betz with his family outdoors.

You can reach Mr. Betz through Parentsquare or his email at jbetz@aces.org

Classwork

We use Google Classroom for almost all work. Students will regularly complete classwork that will teach them skills to help them complete assignments. Classwork is expected to be completed to their best of their ability and is graded on effort using our respect for self grades of L, C, I, or R. This will contribute to their respect for self grade for the week. Our grading is the same letter system for behavior grades and the same number system for all academic classes.

Assignments

After students learn a topic or skill, they will be expected to complete an assignment/ project. These are always started in school, and I am always available to help them get started and explain directions.

Assignments can be turned in late and still receive full credit, it will be noted that students did not respect their homework standard for that week. Students have the opportunity to redo assignments and turn in late work, so not all assignments are reviewed in detail. An assignment is a measurement of if a student learned and can apply the skills they were taught. I am always available to make time to review student answers with your child 1:1 when appropriate in class to give them an opportunity to arrive at the best answer on their own.

Homework/Practice:

Most of our learning will be done using hands on investigations and group learning tasks that are not easily adapted for home. Therefore, homework will usually be work that students did not finish during class which are called ASSIGNMENTS in Google Classroom. Homework is always posted in the classroom in at least 2 places along with a Parentsquare announcement.
The workshop approach helps students become avid and skilled readers, writers, and inquirers. This approach to instruction recognizes that “one size fits all” doesn’t match the realities of our students. The core emphasis is on teaching readers and writers, not reading and writing. The workshop approach, aligned with natural literacy development, allows students to be active learners with individual choices and decisions. Therefore, independence and choice are fundamental characteristics. “This equips and empowers students with the skills and strategies needed to navigate their own literacy, not just at school, but in their lives.”

**What is the work that students are doing in a Reader’s Workshop?**

Teaching **SKILLS** vs. **CONTENT**:

- **Thinking within text skills**: solving words, monitoring and correcting themselves as they read, searching for and using information, summarizing, reading fluently, and making needed adjustments as they read.
- **Thinking about the text**: requires them to critique and analyze what they are reading.
- **Thinking beyond the text**: infer, synthesize, make connections, and predict

In addition, students work on a variety of strategies to strengthen their thinking and writing about reading.

**What is the work that students are doing in a Writer’s Workshop?**

Writing Workshop follows a similar structure and philosophy to Reader’s Workshop. Students engage in explicit, sequenced instruction to progress purposefully in their writing by building writing fluency, setting goals, and critiquing their work. They work in three genres of writing: narrative, informational, and argumentative writing through assessment-guided instruction, with on-demand pre-assessments, instruction, conferring with individuals and small groups, and moving towards independence in producing writing.

**Routines and Structures of Reading and Writing Workshop**

The workshop model deliberately incorporates routines and structures that are predictable and simple so that the focus is on the complex work of teaching in a responsive manner to accelerate achievement for all learners.

Daily routine may look like this: 10 minute mini lesson for exposure to a new skill or way of thinking about text. 30 minutes of independent reading and writing time (while the teacher is conferring with individuals and meeting with small groups), mid workshop teaching point for 2-3 min check in, and 5-10 minutes of sharing the work of the day and closure.
Math: Miss Hernandez

Curriculum: Illustrative Mathematics

- Highest Rated Math Curriculum
- Sparks discussion, perseverance, and enjoyment of math
- Intentional Lessons designed to promote mathematical growth
- Hands-on Approach

Supports: iReady Lessons and IXL

- Meets students for “What They Need” in My Path
- Supports in class learning
- Reviews and Practices Skills

Family Resources (Homework help):

- Family Materials for Unit 1 KH
- Family Materials for Unit 1 OUR
- Materiales para la familia Unit 1 (espanol)
- Online Access to Student Material
- Mr. Morgan Extra Help

Homework Expectations:

Weekly math homework will include completing:

- 2 IXL strands assigned that week (desired smart score is stated weekly depending on topics)
- 1 Teacher Assigned lessons on iReady
- 2 My Path lessons on iReady

(Students are given one week to complete all homework assignments. Each week, homework will be assigned on Mondays on Google Classroom [students will need to use the Classlink apps page to log into iReady and IXL], to be completed throughout the week and then handed in on the following Monday.)

Students will receive a blank homework packet weekly, which they will use to show all of their work and then turn in every Monday to receive credit for their work.

**As IXL skills are aligned with the week’s lessons, it is HIGHLY recommended that students wait until at least Thursday to attempt IXL strands**
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>L</th>
<th>Completed and go ABOVE on ALL work</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>Completed the Assignment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I</td>
<td>Finish half of what was expected</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>R</td>
<td>Did NOT do homework</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Other Grading:**
- Academic grades are scored 1-4 (4 being the highest)
- Behavior is graded Leader/Consistent/Inconsistent/Rarely
  - Based on Respect for Self, Respect for Others, Respect for Community, and Homework

**Classwork Expectations:**
- All assignments will be assigned on Google Classroom
- Students are expected to follow along during class, ask questions, discuss in small groups and join as a whole class, and respond to Desmos assignments as we go through them together
- Any work not completed in class must be completed for homework by the end of the week
- Late work is not accepted
Science: Mrs. Rolston

Materials Needed for Science:

- Pencil or Pen
- Highlighter
- Ear buds
- Colored pencils
- A double-pocket folder for keeping important science work
- Spiral single-subject notebook

Science Units:

1. *Matter* – students will learn about the many elements of the universe. They will understand how matter changes in chemical reactions through investigations in the laboratory.
2. *Weather* – students will understand major weather factors, how they are measured, and how data is used to predict weather.
3. *Ecology* – students will consider what makes up an ecosystem, the relationships and cycles within the ecosystem and how ecosystems change over time.

Science Resource:

This year all ACES schools will be using STEMScopes which is a 100% digital curriculum. As STEMScopes is an online resource for science content, there are no textbooks or print copies for students. This will help us to become aligned with the new NGSS (Next Generation Science Standards), support hands-on investigations and foster a student-led environment.

Projects and Performance Tasks:

Students will complete at least one project or performance task per unit to demonstrate their understanding of science content and skills.

Homework/Practice:

Homework will be assigned when:

1. Classwork was not finished during the school day. Students are expected to complete the work at home if it was not completed in class. Please check student agendas.
2. A student was absent and needs to complete missed assignments.
3. Review is needed for an upcoming test or quiz.

There will not be any formally assigned homework. Please spend this time doing things that will help your child be successful in school such as eating dinner as a family, reading together, playing outside and getting your child to bed early.

Welcome aboard the exciting study of science! ☺
If you need to contact me, please email me at brolston@aces.org