

# Social Studies Newsletter

Welcome to 8 grade

September 8, 2022

Vol.I Issue I

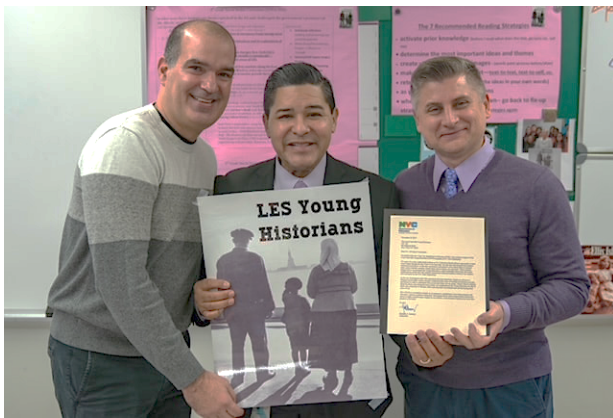
## Teacher emails

Mr. A. Guerriero  
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Mr. C. Piccigallo  
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Hi, my name is Alfonso Guerriero and welcome to 8 grade social studies. Most students call me Mr. Guerriero or Mr. G. My co-teacher is Mr. Piccigallo (he is assigned to the ICT social studies class) and our email appears on the upper right hand corner of this newsletter. We are truly looking forward to working with each student this year.

This school year will be just as challenging as the last two years. The pathogen remains unpredictable, and so we must remain vigilant and safe for everyone. This school year, the CDC and the Department of Education have changed some of the safety requirements for schools such as masks, which are completely optional for students and school staff to wear inside the school building. It is still advised, however, to use hand sanitizers and maintain a level of cleanness inside the classroom.



From Left to Right- Chris Piccigallo, former Schools Chancellor Richard Carranza & Alfonso Guerriero received a letter of support for their work pertaining to local history in 2019.

Our blog will be located on our website-  
[www.lesyounghistorians.com](http://www.lesyounghistorians.com).

## The Biweekly Blog!

It is important for students to be informed about current events. These topics will be part of our biweekly blog. Students are expected to respond to our blog on our website—[www.lesyounghistorians.com](http://www.lesyounghistorians.com). Some of the topics will be from our free subscription to *Junior Scholastic*. The articles will be uploaded to Google Classroom. Students will be encouraged to express their thoughts, opinions and create questions related to the topic. The blog will be an assessment for students and part of their homework and participation grade.

### What does our 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Curriculum consist of in middle school?

- Review of The Reconstruction Era
- Industrialization/Immigration
- The Progressive Movement
- US Imperialism & WW I
- The Roaring Twenties & Great Depression
- WW II
- The Cold War

### School's Grading Policy (6-8)

- Formative Assessments (40%)
- Performance Assessments (40%)
- Classroom Standards (20%)

Our curriculum teaches American history through the lens of the Lower East Side. It was created in 2015 by Mr. Piccigallo and me. We firmly believe that the subject of social studies or history is typically taught with a focus on national and international events, and historical figures, but ignores the places students (of all ages) engage with most, their neighborhoods.

Involving students in local history helps them to analyze their place in a larger context and encourages them to think metacognitively. Through local history, students will learn to question history as it has been taught and history as it is being made around them.

The lessons are designed to teach content one day and CCSS skills on another day. Each lesson includes the New York State Standards, and the Common Core State Standards (CCSS). Finally, the lessons focus on content/skills-based objectives to meet the requirements of students learning about local as well as New York City and US history. To learn more about the curriculum's vision/mission statement, please visit the LES Young Historians website <https://www.lesyounghistorians.com/>.

### In class expectations & class/homework assignments

- **Safety:** Mask, hand sanitizer, wipes- *Masks are optional for students and school staff.*
- **Electronic Supplies:** We have a classroom set of laptops that will be used every day in class. **Most lessons will be on Google Classroom or on our website [www.lesyounghistorians.com](http://www.lesyounghistorians.com) with live instruction.**
- **ALL LESSONS & HOMEWORK ASSIGNMENTS WILL REQUIRE A COMPUTER--- DOCUMENTS WILL BE UPLOADED TO GOOGLE CLASSROOM UNLESS DIRECTED OTHERWISE.**
- **If a student does not have a computer at home, please tell the teacher.**
- **The Google Classroom code for each class will be given the first day of school. Families will have access to the codes as well, please communicate this with your child.**
- Every day students will be learning a combination of content/skills-based lessons. Each lesson is designed for students to read, write, speak/listen, and critically think about the topic.
- Every other week, students will be given a set of social studies vocabulary words related to the topic that will appear in Google Classroom. Students are required to define and study all words and list the words into <https://quizlet.com/> ----sign-up is free.
- There will be several writing assignments due throughout the year—families will be notified in advance.
- There will be quizzes twice a month based on the content and vocabulary words of the week.
- There will be a Socratic Seminar every other Friday, starting in October. Most students are already familiar with the objectives of the Socratic Seminar since this was taught in sixth and seventh grade.
- Students are expected to be respectful to all classmates and adults in the room.
- Students are expected to follow all school policies—i.e., behavior in class, bathroom policy, cell phone policy, locker use, etc.