

2 0 1 9 - 2 0 2 0

MRS. LOWE'S SOCIAL STUDIES CLASS

LIVE HONORABLY. ACT HUMBLY. MODEL DIGNITY.

✧ Welcome to Room 405 ✧

This year is going to be a GREAT year!



We understand that how we act, what we say, and what display reflect our character and the values of the Alamo Heights community. We will show integrity in all of these areas.

Welcome to AHJS! I am thrilled to begin our journey as a learning community! Our class will study topics such as physical and human geography, economics, government, cultural traits , and current events, and will explore how these impact the world we live in and interact with every day.

We practice the Eight Keys of

Excellence in our class each day and respect one another through what we say and do.

If you are absent from class, please check my website or email me. I am happy to attach information and work or send it home with a friend. I look forward to a great year with each of you!



What should you bring to class each day?

When you come prepared for class each day, YOU ENJOY CLASS MORE!

BINDER (all classes)
AGENDA
PAPER
BLUE/ BLACK PEN
PENCIL
SPIRAL
MAP PENCILS
GLUE
SCISSORS



A Little Bit About Mrs. Lowe

This begins my 25th year teaching, 22nd year in AHISD, and 20th year at AHJS. I have a B.S. from Texas A&M University and an M. Ed. from Lamar University. I have a wonderful husband named Cliff and a terrific 12th grader. We love our dog, Scratch, and Lil'Bit, our Axis. Our family enjoys Aggie football, snow skiing, spending time at the coast, outdoor activities, and traveling.



A Week in Social Studies Class

A goal this year is to develop strong relationships within the classroom where students feel comfortable taking risks while developing responsible behaviors and ownership of their learning. Literacy integration of into the context of social studies also brings relevance and the vital need for effective communication. Class consists of whole class instruction and discussion, small group/partner practice and application, independent work, and assessments.



Communication is Key

It is important to me that communication regarding your student and class is open. My website is updated weekly with important information and a recap of what we have been doing in class. My school email (alowe@ahisd.net) is by far the fastest way to share information, ask a question, or set up a conference. I will respond to you before the day's end if not much sooner. If for some reason you do not hear back from me, there may be an issue with a blocked email. Please call

the office and leave a message for me to call you. Students may also use this email to ask me any questions. A good rule of thumb is to email me before 9 o'clock in the evening.



What will you learn about in SOCIAL STUDIES?

Physical Geography and Social Studies Skills: Focus on North America landforms, natural resources, natural disasters, climate and vegetation, maps, charts, graph skills, Five Themes of Geography, research, primary and secondary sources, and citations

Government: Limited and unlimited forms, processes, and citizenship

Economics: Factors of production, foreign policies, developed vs. developing, entrepreneurship, and globalization

Human Geography: characteristics of culture, human environment interaction, migration, emigration/immigration, adapt and modify, and globalization

Current Events are integrated in to all units of study. CNN Student News is utilized on an almost daily basis. This reinforces learning and provides real world connections.

The study of the continents, oceans, and countries are learned about during the second semester through the spiraling of concepts above.

GRADING GUIDELINES - Please see district grading guidelines for details.

60 % Quizzes/ Class Work/ Homework

40 % Tests/Projects

HOMEWORK - Homework is studying for quizzes and tests and assignment and project completion. For additional explanation of the district's homework guidelines, please refer to the AHISD main website.

TECHNOLOGY - The use of personal devices will not be allowed in the classroom. If you need to send a message that must be relayed during class time, please contact the office or email me prior.

PROGRESS REPORTS - The school will send home a progress report after the end of three and six weeks of each grading period. Parents and students may also access grades online via Parent Access Center located on the AHJS main webpage.

TEXTBOOKS - Textbooks will be used throughout the school year in class. If you would like to keep one at home, I can check I one out to you. We will not issue books to students.

LUNCH BUNCH - Bunch is the first 20 minutes of lunch when students that require assistance can work with me on assignments, can complete work that has already been assigned, or read. Most all teachers have this once or more each week, so students can take advantage of the opportunity every day if they wish. (Due to my class schedule this year, students will report to Mrs. Sadosky in Room 404 for Lunch Bunch unless directed otherwise.)

Advice for Class of 2026 from Former Students

- Do not talk while Mrs. Lowe is talking.
- Do your best. If you start struggling, go to lunch bunch. Mrs. Lowe will help you.
- Try hard and do not give up.
- Don't have a bad attitude.
- You should pay close attention to lessons.
- Love to learn and have fun.
- Keep track of your spiral and take notes. It will help on assignments.
- Always have an interesting book and your spiral.
- Never give up on things that seem hard.
- Put away your cell phones.
- Class is fun if you can follow directions.
- Set a personal goal for yourself.
- Don't underestimate class. It is not a pass or fail class that you can just mess around in.
- Study your vocabulary.
- Pay attention and write all important things in your spiral.
- Take notes on everything you learn in class because it will pay off for tests.
- If you are absent one day, just ask the teacher about the lesson or get notes from a reliable friend.
- Focus, pay attention, and learn, but at the same time, have fun!
- If you study, class will be easy!
- A very important skill is connecting to text and understanding what you read. At first it can be difficult, but you learn and get better throughout the year.
- I thought it was an easy class, but Mrs. Lowe keeps you on your toes.
- You should not argue with Mrs. Lowe. She is going to win.
- Make sure you ALWAYS bring a book and do NOT play on your phone/computer.
- The only way to become a better reader is to read. If you have a book you enjoy, it makes it a WHOLE LOT BETTER.
- Always pay attention or you'll miss something very important. Class is tough but fun!
- You definitely NEED to read in class.
- Be prepared when you come to class.
- Ask questions if you are confused or were absent.
- You will learn funny words, but at the end they make sense.