

Welcome to Ms. Rotramel's Page

Whew! We made it to the 4th quarter! The school year is rapidly wrapping up, but we still have lots of work to do. My student teacher, Ms. Schiller, and I will be leading the students through studies of the Civil War, Reconstruction, and Westward Expansion. I hope that scholars continue to turn in their assignments and to study for tests in order to have a strong end to the school year!

~ Liz Rotramel

Phone (217) 351-3771ext. 740
rotramel@champaignschools.org



In-coming 7th graders, listen to some advice from my last year's flex class:
<http://rotramel.podbean.com/>

Check your scholar's grades on line at Mr. Ramirez's web page.

- [Classroom News](#)
- [My Background](#)
- [The Year at a Glance](#)
- [State Standards](#)
- [Grading Procedures](#)
- [Parent Involvement](#)
- [Resources](#)

***** Attention!!!**

Start saving those Boxtops for Education labels that you find on General Mills products! You may turn them in anytime, just put them in an envelope or baggie and get them to me. We will be collecting all year so hurry up and eat your General Mills products to start collecting! Money earned will be used for classroom technology.

Classroom News....

4th quarter assignments*

<u>Week Of:</u>	<u>Assignments Collected</u>
March 9-13	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Michigan • Florida
March 16-20	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Texas • Glory Video Guide
March 30 - April 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Warm-ups for Weeks of March 9 and 16 • Warm up folder set up check • Civil War Map Activity • Graphing Civil War Data and questions • Civil War Soldiers questions • Signed Parent Letter • Iowa • Wisconsin
April 6-9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ALL MAKE UP STATE SHEETS DUE TUESDAY APRIL, 7 • State Sheet Quiz on Thursday • Civil War word searches due Thursday (EC) • 100 pts Extra Credit for Kleenex! Allergy season is upon us and we have no tissue for our noses. Please help.
April 13-17	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work in the computer on Civil War project. Create trading cards of famous Civil War people, battles, and technology. This will count as a project grade. • State Sheets due Friday.

*Please be aware that assignments and due dates may change due to teacher adjustments made because of class progress.

My Background

Having grown up in Champaign, I am a product of Unit #4 Schools. Being the townie that I am, I earned a BA from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign in 2000 with a major in History and minors in Secondary Education and German. During that time I did my student teaching at EMS with Mr. Pinkerton. Upon graduation, I took a job with READY, the Regional Office of Education's alternative school. I taught middle school math and social studies for one

year. I joined Unit #4 as a staff member for the 2001-2002 school year. For five years I taught high school social studies (Geography, U.S. History, World History, and American Government) at Columbia Center. After six exciting years teaching in alternative settings, I decided to return to a traditional school and was very excited when the opportunity arose to return to Edison Middle School.

The Year at a Glance

This year long course is a study of the history and culture of the United States from exploration and colonization to the turn of the twentieth century. In the first quarter there will be units on Native Americans, Exploration, and Colonization. In the second quarter students will study the foundations of an early national government and various social movements. Pre-Civil War America, including Westward Expansion, Slavery, and Sectional Conflict, and the Civil War will be covered in the third quarter. Students will end the year by looking at Reconstruction, the Indian Wars, and Industrialization. At the end of each quarter students will take a quarterly assessment test.

[Please click here to view the 7th Grade Social Studies curriculum in its entirety.](#)

State Standards

[Please click here to view the Illinois State Learning Standards for 7th Grade Social Studies.](#)

Grading Procedures

Students are graded according to the standard Unit 4 guidelines. Class work and Homework make up 40%, Participation is 10%, and Major Tests/Quizzes/Projects are worth 50%.

Points are deducted for late work. It is very important that students turn in all assignments on time. Penalties for late work are as follows:

1 day late = 15% off

2 days late = 30% off

3 + days late = 50% off

Grades are posted in the classroom weekly by the students' identification numbers. The posting also indicates missing work. Parents of students earning Ds or Fs are notified every two weeks. Midquarter grades are mailed to parents.

Grades will be posted on the online grade book on a regular basis. To access these grades you will need to go to Mr. Ramirez's web page and click on the link to his online grade book. You will be able to see grades for all of your scholar's core classes on this page. To view the grades you will need to type in the scholar's last name and six digit id number.

Parent Involvement

Parental/Guardian involvement is extremely important for the success of the student in science class. It is important that both the teacher and the parent/guardian communicate effectively with each other in order to ensure consistency. I strongly encourage parent/guardian participation in science so that their child can have the best chance for a successful year. I hope to consistently communicate with you about both the positives and the concerns regarding your child. Please feel free to contact me whenever you have questions or concerns.

Ways for you to be more involved:

- Communicate with your child's teachers via phone or email.
- Check your child's assignment notebook on a daily basis. He/she will be writing in it daily!
- Check our team online grade book for grades and upcoming events.
- Make arrangements to come visit your child's classes.
- Make an appointment to meet with us.
- Volunteer in class or come with us on field trips.
- Attend Open House this fall.
- Set up a time to meet with teachers during parent-teacher conferences.

We want you to be a part of our team!!!

Resources

US State Information:

1. **Fact Monster** <http://www.factmonster.com/states.html>
2. **50 States** <http://www.50states.com/>
3. **Enchanted Learning** <http://www.enchantedlearning.com/usa/states/>

4. 50 American States <http://www.globalcomputing.com/states.html>

5. Learn About the 50 States <http://www.netstate.com/states/>

US Map Practice Websites:

1. Geography Games for Kids. (Easy Level) <http://www.kidsgeo.com/geography-games/united-states-america-map-game.php>

2. Maps.com: US Map Game. (Medium Level) <http://www.maps.com/games/jigsaw.html>

3. US map quiz with a single choice. (Medium Level) <http://www.lizardpoint.com/fun/geoquiz/usaquiz.html>

4. Name that state with four choices. (Medium Level) http://www.primarygames.com/states/question_4.htm

5. Timed map quiz. (Hard Level) http://www.pibmug.com/files/map_test.swf

6. I like to learn map quiz. (Hard Level) <http://www.ilike2learn.com/ilike2learn/unitedstates.html>

Election '08

1. John McCain's official site <http://www.johnmccain.com>

2. Barack Obama's official site <http://www.barackobama.com>

3. The Senate website <http://www.senate.gov>

4. CNN election coverage <http://www.cnn.com/election/2008/issues>

5. Washington Post <http://www.projects.washingtonpost.com/2008-presidential-candidates>

6. Procon <http://www.procon.org>

Civil War Trading Cards Project Websites

<http://www.hackman-adams.com/guns/Technology.htm>

<http://www.civilwarhome.com/biograph.htm>

<http://www.civilwarhome.com/records.htm>

<http://www.alincolnlearning.us/civilwarweapons.html>

<http://www.aeragon.com/03/>

http://www.teacheroz.com/Civil_War_Weapons.htm

Reconstruction

1. Web site for Freedmens Bureau <http://valley.vcdh.virginia.edu/HIUS403/freedmen/bureau.html>
