



# STAFFORD MUNICIPAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

## Year at a Glance

### Social Studies – Grade 8

#### Course Description:

In **Grade 8**, students study the history of the United States from the early colonial period through Reconstruction. The knowledge and skills in subsection (b) of this section comprise the first part of a two-year study of U.S. history. The second part, comprising U.S. history from Reconstruction to the present, is provided in §113.41 of this title (relating to United States History Studies Since 1877 (One Credit), Beginning with School Year 2011–2012). The content in Grade 8 builds upon that from Grade 5 but provides more depth and breadth. Historical content focuses on the political, economic, religious, and social events and issues related to the colonial and revolutionary eras, the creation and ratification of the U.S. Constitution, challenges of the early republic, the Age of Jackson, westward expansion, sectionalism, Civil War, and Reconstruction. Students describe the physical characteristics of the United States and their impact on population distribution and settlement patterns in the past and present. Students analyze the various economic factors that influenced the development of colonial America and the early years of the republic and identify the origins of the free enterprise system. Students examine the American beliefs and principles, including limited government, checks and balances, federalism, separation of powers, and individual rights, reflected in the U.S. Constitution and other historical documents. Students evaluate the impact of Supreme Court cases and major reform movements of the 19th century and examine the rights and responsibilities of citizens of the United States as well as the importance of effective leadership in a constitutional republic. Students evaluate the impact of scientific discoveries and technological innovations on the development of the United States. Students use critical-thinking skills, including the identification of bias in written, oral, and visual material.

<b>Grading Periods</b>	<b>Unit Names</b>
Grading Period 1	<i>Unit 1: Thinking Like a Historian</i> <i>Unit 2: Colonial America – 1587-1763</i>
Grading Period 2	<i>Unit 3: American Independence – 1763-1783</i> <i>Unit 4: Writing the Constitution – 1783-1791</i>
Grading Period 3	<i>Unit 5: Early Republic – 1789-1828</i> <i>Unit 6: Age of Jackson – 1820-1830</i>
Grading Period 4	<i>Unit 7: Westward Expansion – 1780-1850</i> <i>Unit 8: Industrialization and Reform – 1800-1850</i>
Grading Period 5	<i>Unit 9: Sectionalism – 1820-1850</i> <i>Unit 10: Civil War – 1860-1865</i>
Grading Period 6	<i>Unit 11: Reconstruction – 1865-1877</i> <i>STAAR Review</i> <i>STAAR Social Studies Assessment</i> <i>Unit 12: Contemporary United States</i>