

## 8th Grade American History I Course Syllabus

2021-2022

Instructors	Email	Website
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### Course Description:

The eighth grade social studies course examines the past of the United States from the start of our New Nation to the late 19<sup>th</sup> century, while highlighting important events that occurred in Pennsylvania. In our studies through time, students will investigate the people, the events, and the ideas that shaped our country's early growth as well as its struggles to endure through civil strife and social problems. Students will focus on how the present has been shaped by the past.

### Course Goal and Objectives:

The overall goal of this course with continued study at the high school is to develop an informed citizen who will contribute in a positive manner to the future of the local, state, national and global community. To fulfill this goal we will pursue the following underlying objectives:

- A. Master basic facts of the past of the United States and the World.
- B. Foster a love of studying history by imagining being part of the past.
- C. Develop critical positions about historical people, events and ideas while maintaining an objective perspective of the past and present.
- D. Develop thinking skills using maps, tables, and other tools of a historian.
- E. Promote and improve our expression of ideas in oral and written form.
- F. Develop our research skills.

### Topics:

1. History & Historians – tools, skills, and reasons used in and for the study of history
2. The Constitution and Bill of Rights
3. Launching a New Republic (1789 – 1800)
4. The Jefferson Era (1800-1816)
5. National and Regional Growth (1800-1844)
6. The Age of Andrew Jackson (1824-1840)
7. Manifest Destiny (1821-1853)
7. A New Spirit of Change- Reform Movements (1830-1900)
8. The Nation Breaking Apart- Antebellum America (1846-1861)
9. The American Civil War (1861-1865)
10. Reconstruction (1865 - 1877)
11. The Development of the Industrial United States (1870 – 1900)

### Requirements and Determination of Grades:

Students are to keep a neat notebook or an electronic file in which notes and class papers will be kept. Textbooks should be covered at all times with either a paper or cloth cover. Students should complete homework assignments on time and do their own work. **If a student is absent, it is their responsibility to seek out or contact the teacher regarding any work that is missed.** Please refer to the LAMS planner regarding policies for making up work when absent.

**Students are expected to check PowerSchool, Canvas, & their school email on a regular basis.**  
Parents are strongly encouraged to sign up for PowerSchool and Canvas as well.

Grades will be weighed with consideration as follows:

Tests and Major Projects - 60%

Quizzes and Classwork – 30%

Homework - 10%

The final class grade for the American History I course will be determined by the average of the four marking period grades.