

**Course Content:** Eighth grade Social Studies is a nineteenth century U.S. and Washington State history class. Successful completion, with a passing grade, of both semesters of this course satisfies the student's Washington State History requirement for high school graduation.

### Notebooks

As part of this curriculum, students will be strengthening their organizational skills through the use of guided notebooks. Students need to provide a 3-ring binder to serve as this notebook. This binder will remain in the classroom. If a student cannot acquire a binder, please notify me, and I will provide one.

### Units Covered:

1. **AT THE EDGE OF HISTORY:** Students are introduced to History as a discipline and a process. They will examine their own personal history and how it fits into the context of world events. Emphasis will be placed on building the skills of an effective historian.
2. **WHO WAS HERE FIRST?:** Students will learn about Native Americans, from their arrival in the Western Hemisphere all the way through contact with Europeans. This unit will focus on the tribes of the Pacific Northwest.
3. **GO WEST, IT'S MANIFEST:** Students will study the Westward expansion of the United States through a series of activities that simulate what life was like for pioneers traveling across the Oregon Trail.
4. **INVENTING WASHINGTON STATE:** This unit will focus on the development and structure of government in the United States and Washington State. Students will emerge with a better understanding of how laws are made, what government officials can and cannot do, and the ways our courts function.
5. **A NATION DIVIDED:** Students study the causes and effects of the War Between the States, and the impact of Reconstruction on U.S. History.

### Classroom Expectations:

- Be in your seat and ready to work at the beginning of class.
- Arrive prepared to work (*books, paper, pen/pencil, assignment, and appropriate learning attitude*).
- Assignments will be on time and of high quality.
- Students will maintain behavior that does not interfere with classmates' right to learn or the teacher's right to teach.
- Be polite, considerate, and respectful of others.
- Put forth your best effort.
- No food or drink (except water) allowed.

### Evaluation/Grading:

This will be the beginning of a transition year to Standards Based Grading (SBG). To help with this transition, each assignment will carry both a point value, and the total points accumulated for a unit is the basis for a student's letter grade. The grading scale for this class is:

		<u>SBG</u>
100 – 90%	A	4
89 - 80%	B	3
79 - 70%	C	3
69 - 60%	D	2
59 – ? %	F	1

### Particular Policies:

- Assignment due dates are the day on which no further in-class time will be provided to complete a given project. Students will not be docked points for late work, but are encouraged to finish by the due date so as not to fall behind. All assignments must be completed by one week prior to the end of the quarter. After that date, late work will not be accepted.

- Any assignment can be corrected by the student for full credit. All corrected work must be turned in by the week before the end of the quarter. After that date, it will not be accepted.
- I rarely offer extra credit. Students have multiple opportunities to succeed on a given assignment.
- It is the student's responsibility to get missed assignments. Upon return to class, students should check in with me to obtain missed work.
- All final work is to be completed neatly on white lined paper or word-processed, double-spaced and in blue or black ink. If typed, it must be in 12-point Times New Roman font.
- Your planner is a required class resource. Students are expected to use planner daily to document class assignments, due dates, and reminders. To stay aware of what we are doing in the classroom, parents and students should review the planner together on a regular basis.

**Washington State History and High School Graduation**

Passing this class is required by the state for a student to graduate high school. To pass this class, a student must earn a "D" or higher grade for both first and second semesters.

Failure to obtain a passing grade in either semester will result in the student retaking this course in high school.

**Class Management**

Students are expected to contribute to a learning environment by:

- Acting in a safe and healthy way
- Treating all property with respect
- Respecting the rights and needs of others
- Taking responsibility for their learning

Behavior is a choice, and all choices have consequences. The consequences may be either positive or negative depending on the choice you make. Those choices which detract from the learning environment will be dealt with using the Positive Behavior Intervention System (PBIS).

**Academic Honesty**

I take cheating very seriously. Students caught cheating or plagiarizing the first time will be required to meet with me to discuss their actions, and have an opportunity to correct the assignment. Further incidences of cheating or plagiarizing will result in parent contact and a meeting with the school administration to discuss the issue.

**Recommendations for Student Success**

- Students should be filling in their planners everyday, and then checking them for tasks each night
- Parents should have their student explain what they did in class on a regular basis (having the student use their planner with this is helpful).
- Communication is essential to an effective student-teacher relationship and success in an academic setting. Parents and students have several options for contacting me: My work e-mail is [tyler.haywood@tumwater.k12.wa.us](mailto:tyler.haywood@tumwater.k12.wa.us), and my work phone is (360) 709-7549. You may also e-mail me through Skyward.
- Students have many chances outside of class time to seek me out for extra help. I encourage them to see me before and after school, and during Opportunities.
- Please do not text or call your student during class time. It is very disruptive to the learning process. Use of phones is not allowed during class time and they will get in trouble if I catch them. If you need to contact them, call the office and they will send down a note with your message.

Please sign and return this sheet to me

\_\_\_\_\_  
Student Name (please print)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Student Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent Name (please print)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent Phone Number

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent E-mail address

- Monitoring a student's progress is now available using the parent access to Skyward. Please circle if you **will** or **will not** be using the access program to monitor the progress of your student.
- Please circle the best way to contact you:  
**Phone**                      **E-mail**

If there is anything you would like me to know about you or your student, please feel free to write me a note below. Thanks!