

8th Grade US History

Teacher Information:

John Rutherford

7th & 8th Grade History

Email: rutherfordj@rcschool.net – I return emails within 24 hours on school days.

Phone: (423) 272-7651 Ext. 1126 – Calls during class hours go to voicemail

Planning Period: 11:00 AM - 11:45 AM

Class Overview:

Eighth grade social studies covers American History from the Colonial Period (1600) through the Reconstruction Era following the American Civil War (1877). Throughout the year, students will also explore Tennessee's role in that story — from Fort Loudoun and the Cherokee frontier, to the Trail of Tears, to Memphis as the cotton capital of the South, to Tennessee's unusual path through the Civil War and Reconstruction. Geography, economics, and civics will be studied in relation to these topics.

Class Calendar:

- *Please note that dates below are subject to change.*
- Complete list of state standards for social studies may be found online at:
https://www.tn.gov/content/dam/tn/education/standards/ss/Social_Studies_Standards.pdf

August: Colonialism 1600 - 1750 (8.01 - 8.12)

September: The American Revolution 1700 - 1783 (8.13 - 8.20)

October: The New Nation 1775 - 1800 (8.21 - 8.28)

November: Growth of a Young Nation 1800 - 1820 (8.29 - 8.33)

November/December: Sectionalism and Reform 1800 - 1850 (8.34 - 8.43)

January: The Jacksonian Era 1824 - 1840 (8.44 - 8.48) + Expansion and Division of the Nation 1820 - 1860 (8.49 - 8.60)

February: Civil War 1860 - 1865 (8.61 - 8.66)

March: Reconstruction 1865 - 1877 (8.67 - 8.75)

April: Wrap-up, Review, Testing

May: Final Project/Financial Literacy Mini-Course

Final Project:

The month of May will primarily be devoted to a final project covering the Bill of Rights. Students will work on the project during class time. We will also complete a financial literacy “mini-course” during the month of May.

Required Materials:

- 1 composition notebook — this is our interactive notebook and stays in class; please replace it when full
- 3 Ringed Binder
- Pencils
- Colored Pencils

Grading Scale:

Student’s class average will be determined by grades in the following areas:

- Daily Work: 25%
- Quizzes: 30%
- Tests/Projects: 35%
- Notebook Checks: 10%

Students will have ample opportunity to complete daily work in class, but those assignments become homework if not completed during that time. The dates of quizzes and tests will be communicated ahead of time to allow students to prepare.

Retakes: Quizzes may be retaken for a higher grade as many times as needed, up until the day before the unit test, as long as all work for that unit has been turned in. The highest score earned is the one recorded. Unit tests are not retaken.

Late Work: Assignments turned in late will receive a maximum grade of 70%. Late work is accepted until the day before that unit’s test. Work missed due to an excused absence is not penalized — students have one day per day absent to make it up.

Checking Grades: Grades are updated weekly in SkyWard. Please reach out any time a grade doesn’t look right — I would much rather hear from you early than at the end of a grading period.

School Wide Grading Scale:

- 95-100: A
- 86-94: B
- 76-85: C
- 70-75: D
- 0-69: F

** Please note, the syllabus is subject to change at any time. Students and parents will be notified of any changes as soon as they occur.*