

8th Grade American History

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Course Description

This course examines the history of the United States from the American Revolution through the Civil War and Reconstruction. Key people will be examined, along with the political, military, scientific, and social developments of each era.

Essential Standards

- 1. Identify the causes and effects of an event.*
- 2. Draw a conclusion based on evidence by making a claim and supporting it with evidence.*
- 3. Demonstrate the ability to read, interpret, and analyze a primary source.*

Major Units of Study

Prologue – Setting the Scene

- *Exploration*
- *Colonization of America*

Unit 1 – Establishing America

- *Independence*
- *Articles of Confederation*
- *Constitution*

Unit 2 – Regionalism and Expansion

- ***Movement West and Removal***
- ***Sectionalism***
- ***Slavery***

Unit 3 – March to War

- ***Popular Sovereignty***
- ***Expansion of Slavery***

Unit 4 – Toward a More Perfect Union

- ***The American Civil War***
- ***Reconstruction***

Unit 5 – The Rise of America

- ***Economic Expansion***
- ***The Rise of Industry***

Course Expectations

All rules and procedures can be summarized with these three statements:

- ***Be Respectful of everyone in our class and school through your words and actions.***
- ***Be Responsible for yourself and your learning, as well as the learning of others in our shared classroom.***
- ***Be Safe by helping create a positive, inclusive learning environment that is open to all.***

Materials

As we navigate this school year, we will need to be flexible with how the class is structured. To

help accommodate this, students should bring the following items to class every day:

- 1. MacBook (fully charged)*
- 2. MacBook charger*
- 3. Plug-in earphones (wireless earbuds are not allowed in the classroom due to building policy)*
- 4. A writing utensil*

Assessment Retakes

Students who receive below a 70% on an assessment have the option to retake the assessment. The typical procedure is for the student to stay after school or attend W.I.N. on an assigned day to reflect on and correct any issues.

Students can earn 1 point back for each answer they correctly revise, up to a maximum final score of 70%.

All missing work must be turned in before test corrections can take place.

Late Work

Students are expected to turn in all assignments on time and on the assigned due date. Generally, work time is built into the school day to allow students to complete assignments in class.

Points may be deducted for missing or late work, up to a maximum of 20%.

A student may turn in a missing assignment until the end of the current section or concept. Once we have moved on from that section or concept, the zero will remain in place.

AI Software

All work must be original and created by the student. Providing information to an AI program does not make the resulting work original. Submitting AI-generated work as your own is considered plagiarism.

Long-form writing assignments may be submitted to plagiarism and AI-detection software.

Failure to follow this expectation will result in appropriate consequences.

Canvas

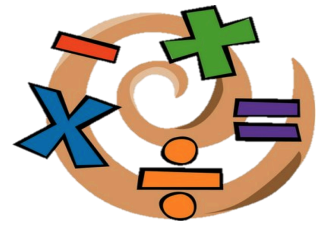
Please refer to my Canvas site regularly to stay up to date on what we are doing in class. Canvas will be used to post on message boards, connect with class content, access helpful links, and find information about missing work.

I am looking forward to a great year!

-Ross Schaffer



8th Grade Math
Explorers
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Units of Study:

Unit 1: Solving Equations and Applications
Unit 2: Angle Relationships
Unit 3: Functions and Linear Equations
Unit 4: Statistics and Probability
Unit 5: Real Numbers and Pythagorean Theorem
Unit 6: Exponents, Scientific Notation, and Volume

What ALL students will leave Math 8 mastering (Essential Standards):

I Can:	Solve linear equations and inequalities
	Solve for missing angle measures
	Construct a linear function
	Apply Pythagorean Theorem

Supplies:

- Charged Macbook Air with Wired Headphones
- Pencils
- Scientific Calculator (TI-30XS Recommended)
- (1) One 1-inch, 3-ring Binder
- (1) One Package of 5 dividers
- (2) Two Packages of loose-leaf notebook paper

Grading:

Official Grades can be found on Skyward. Grades will be determined by a combination of Independent Practice, Learning Gauge Quizzes, Projects and Unit Tests. Each test, quiz, project, or assignment will be out of a certain number of points, then those scores will be added together to get a percent out of 100. The breakdown of the percent weights is as follows:

Independent Practice/Binder Checks- 20%

Learning Gauge Quizzes-30%

Unit Tests- 40%

Projects-10%

Absence Policy:

If you are absent, you will have two extra days for each day that you missed to complete make-up work. It is the responsibility of the student to get their work turned in as well as get any other information missed while they were absent. All notes and assignments can be found each day on Canvas

Late Work Policy:

Turning in assignments on time is expected in this class. Any assignment that is not turned in on time will receive a zero. You may make up missing assignments for a maximum of 80% credit until the day of the test for the unit. After that time, no late work will be accepted. In order to make up an assignment, students need to request it to be reopened and then let me know when it has been completed.

Test Retakes:

Students may request one retake for each end of unit Test. In order to be able to retake a test, students must have all homework and quizzes for the unit turned in as well as corrections done for their first test. At that time, students may schedule a time during WIN to retake their test.

Academic Integrity:

Any form of dishonesty in your work such as plagiarism or cheating will result in a zero for the Assignment or Test. The expectation in this class is for you to do the very best you can. AI and PhotoMath are amazing resources, but they should guide your thinking, not ultimately “BE” your work. If you use these resources as your work, it will be treated the same as the plagiarism/cheating policy written above.

**English Language Arts
Mrs. Leigh Ann James
2026-2027**



Welcome! I am excited to partner with you for a wonderful eighth grade year in ELA. My goal is that every student walks out of MTMS in May ready for high school in the areas of literacy, communication, and citizenship. I will relentlessly pursue these goals all year long. I will challenge students to grow personally which means that critical thinking as well as kindness is expected. I will challenge students to grow academically which means that assignments will be personalized, completion essential, and intervention in the form of another try or an extension will occur. This requires much energy from all of us. To this end, I ask that you help me with the following:

Students, your education is your responsibility. If you have any questions about class, I need to hear from you. You may need to arrange a time to meet after school for additional help or see me during WIN time. Email communication should come from you with your parents cc'd. Organize your schoolwork by utilizing your agenda, the e-genda, and Canvas. You are responsible for checking Skyward often to ensure you are keeping pace with the rest of the class and earning the grade you would like. This class is designed to challenge you, so it will at times be difficult. You may struggle with schoolwork, understanding the content, with anxiety, with social pressures, or with other students. If you are struggling, I need to know about it to help you. Lastly, if you are absent, check Canvas to see what you need to catch up on. You will need to make up anything that happened while gone. With each passing year, responsibility increases, but so does the freedom to make your own decisions. When you make the right ones, you will experience the positive outcomes you desire. I can assure you this year will require much effort from you, but the payoffs are more than worth it, and we will have fun in the process.

Parents and Guardians, Students need to take ownership of their education to ensure high school success. Please help them to take responsibility for class work by having them communicate with me first. I welcome your partnership and want to hear from you whenever you need clarification, but I encourage students to

communicate with me by email and to cc you to keep you in the loop. Most eighth grade students need parental guidance to find the organization system that works best for them, whether it be setting alarms on their phones, using the sticky notes app on their MacBooks, or keeping track of responsibilities in their agendas. Most importantly, the practice that will truly improve reading comprehension in all areas is simply to read daily. I assign reading practice as homework. That daily homework takes 20 minutes, reading or studying specific content for a test. Again, this will be personalized to each student according to their overall skill level. Students will have a reading record to jot down the central idea of each day's content. Please check to make sure this is completed habitually as it will vastly improve their overall skill level and will be a significant portion of their overall grade.

Grades will be based on total points.

Grading categories include:

- classwork (assignments)**
- independent practice (outside of class reading and log)**
 - tests (formal, summative assessments)**
- quiz (informal, formative assessments)**

In ELA, Letter grades mean the following:

- A: The student meets and/or exceeds mastery of Kansas English Language Arts standards.**
- B: The student shows basic mastery of KS ELA standards.**
- C: The student sometimes shows basic mastery of KS ELA standards.**
- D: The student struggles to show basic understanding of KS ELA standards.**
- F: The student fails to demonstrate basic understanding of KS ELA standards.**

Extra credit is awarded for extra reading and at my discretion, for exemplary work that demonstrates that the student has gone above and beyond in their effort and/or quality on individual assignments. This is available every quarter to achieve the letter grade they desire.

Most quizzes are administered individually on the first attempt and as a group for the second. If a student does not finish the first attempt by the due date, they will not have the benefit of working with peers for the second. A student may earn full credit on second attempts of quizzes.

Plagiarism of any kind is strictly forbidden. Students are expected to produce work that is entirely their own. Plagiarism can include, but is not limited to, copying

another student's work, using artificial intelligence sites/applications to generate wording and pass it off as their own, or using someone else's work without proper citations. Any work found to be plagiarized will receive zero points and may result in a detention and/or office referral. We will utilize a few artificial intelligence programs for editing and creation of Works Cited documents within the class time on site, but using AI to write assignments or essays instead of creating and conveying original thought is considered academic dishonesty and will not be given an additional attempt.

I guarantee improvement over the course of the year with this partnership and vow to work diligently to meet the improvement goals. Grading happens quickly on reading assignments, but takes a bit more time on written work. Please be patient with me as I carefully assess writing. I am excited to get started this year, to get to know students, to watch them excel, and to work together for the benefit of each one!

Objectives:

1. We will analyze and evaluate complex text.
2. We will compose high school level writing by the end of the year.
3. We will confidently speak in front of an audience.
4. We will actively listen to learn information in order to respond appropriately.

Materials Needed: (These should be with students every day.)

- *Pencils, highlighters (4-5 different colors)
- *Agenda
- *ELA-only pocket folder – need a separate one for this class
- *Earphones with a cord
- *MacBook Air
- *Book Club book (will be checked out from class, the library, or can be brought from home)
- *Pencil bag or container

Class Guidelines:

**RESPECT
YOURSELF, YOUR EDUCATION, OTHERS, AND PROPERTY**

Book Club Requirements:

I ask each student to read daily and want them to enjoy doing so. Reading material should be based on interest and appropriate reading level. Books are available from our school library, the public library, and my classroom library. Students will submit choices to me for approval and be grouped according to genre for book clubs to share with other

students. Additional reading will be rewarded with extra credit.

Late or Missing Assignment Policy:

If something is assigned, completion is expected. If students are using time wisely, most work can be completed during class or WIN and will generally be due the next morning by 8:00 am. Most assignments include the opportunity of two chances or edited revisions to get the best grade possible. Assignments and due dates will be listed in the agenda daily. If an assignment is not completed on time, students will devise a plan to complete it, email the plan to parents and to me, and follow through with the plan that evening. If work is still not complete the following morning, I assume assistance is needed and that the student will be staying after school. Please email me back with transportation arrangements. I am available most afternoons until 3:30. Late assignments will incur a late fee of 20% at my discretion. All work needs to be completed within the unit to receive credit and will not be accepted after the unit is complete as we will be moving forward with learning goals.

Novels that may be used for study:

The Crossover by Kwame Alexander

The House on Mango Street by Sandra Cisneros

The Invention of Wings by Sue Monk Kidd

The Life of Frederick Douglass by David F. Walker

They Called Us Enemy by George Takei

Fourth quarter, students will conduct literature circles. Possible choices:

The Book Thief by Markus Zusak

The Boy in the Striped Pajamas by John Boyne

Milkweed by Jerry Spinelli

The Berlin Boxing Club by Robert Sharenow

All But My Life by Gerda Weissmann Klein

Surviving Hitler by Andrea Warren

Refugee by Alan Gratz

Unlikely Warrior by Georg Rauch

The Diary of Anne Frank by Anne Frank



Contact Information:

If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to email me.

Mrs. Leigh Ann James

ljames@usd232.org

CLASS SYLLABUS

8th Grade Science | Mrs. Parker | Room 204

COURSE OVERVIEW

Students will expand their knowledge and understanding of science through the study of Earth and Space. We have 3 online textbooks we use throughout the year.

Online Textbooks:

- **Bring Science Alive! Space**: solar system, planets, universe & beyond
- **Bring Science Alive! Earth**: minerals, rocks, fossil record, plate tectonics, earthquakes, volcanoes, weathering, soil formation, erosion, deposition.
- **Bring Science Alive! Weather and Climate**: fresh water, ocean water, atmosphere, weather, climate

GRADING POLICY

- Students' grades are based on their performance on Labs, Projects, Quizzes, and Tests. Homework grades are usually (but not always) completion grades and are not based on the accuracy of the work. Homework is the practice to help them learn the content or master the skill. Students are expected to correct their homework assignments to help them with the comprehension of the material taught. I like to think that we learn more from correcting a mistake than by just writing down an answer. Not all homework and classwork is graded, but students are still expected to complete it to gain the knowledge needed for the test. I offer extra credit periodically during a unit to add something more meaningful to the concepts being taught. I do not provide any extra credit to improve a grade.



EXPECTATIONS

All students are expected to come to class ready to learn and participate.

- Come to class on time, prepared for class, and ready to learn. This includes bringing the necessary supplies for class: pencil, grading pen, agenda, ear buds (no AirPods), homework, etc.
- Be respectful of others and yourself.
- Listen attentively to the teacher and peers.
- Respect the opinions of others.
- Keep your hands to yourself and off of other people's belongings.
- Be mindful of your workspace and the space of others.
- Keep your area clean and leave it as clean as you found it.
- Follow the Science Safety Rules (reviewed in the first week)
- No AirPods – WIRED earbuds are required for computer use.

WHAT TO BRING

- ☐ Binder or Science Folder
- ☐ Pens, pencils, & grading pen
- ☐ Loose Leaf paper or Spiral Notebook
- ☐ Wired Earbuds

TESTS/PROJECTS

At the end of a unit, a test or project will be given to show mastery of the skills students need to learn. Completing assignments, correcting, and reviewing the work completed is expected to be done prior to taking a test. If a student earns below 80% on a test, they may retake the test. These are the requirements for a retake:

- All notes over the material on the test must be completed in full, and all review activities must be completed.
- They must come in after school within 2 class periods or come on the designated WIN day to complete the retake.
- They can earn 1 point back for each question they correct. (On a test, questions are 2 points each.)



LATE WORK/ABSENT POLICY

- Late work is any work not completed when due or when we are ready to grade it in class (trying to finish it while we are grading is late). Writing in answers as we are grading is academic dishonesty, and students who choose to do this will not receive credit for completing the assignment. Copying work off the board or from another student is not you doing the work.
- Late work must be turned in before the test over the unit to receive credit, and is not accepted after we have finished the chapter/unit. Any work turned in late may have up to a 20% reduction in points.
- If you ever fall behind, it is highly advised that you stay after school. All teachers are available to stay after school until 3:30 pm, and there will be at least one teacher each day who will allow you to work in their room after school.
- It is expected that a student turn in all missing work, even if the work is done after the test. I will ask students to stay after school to complete missing work. First quarter, my after-school time may be limited to Friday.
- If you are absent, you will have two make-up days for regular daily assignments for each excused absence. For projects, if you are absent the day the assignment is due or you are scheduled to present, the project or presentation is due immediately upon your return.

ESSENTIAL STANDARDS

These standards are lumped throughout various units during the school year and are not a 'one-and-done' format. We work through these standards in almost every unit and build the knowledge to meet the mastery of the concepts.

- Analyzing and interpreting data
- Obtaining, evaluating, and communicating information
- Developing and using models.

SKYWARD VS CANVAS

SKYWARD:

- Grades are updated regularly in SKYWARD, and that is where you will see the class grade for your child. Canvas may show you a grade on an assignment, but it is not where you see the complete class grade. An * in Skyward will be present if I have not yet entered a grade. This is not a missing assignment, but it may appear so in Skyward. You need to click on the actual class on your Skyward to see if the asterisk is present. If an assignment is missing, you will see a 0 recorded and NHI in the gradebook.

CANVAS:

- Canvas is the holder of assignments and the place where electronic work is submitted. The first module in Canvas is a weekly snapshot of our daily assignments. These are organized by week. Each week is then put into a module with all of the assignments for that week. Most classwork can be found in a module for the week.

AI GUIDELINES & POLICY

Students will not be allowed to turn in written science assignments using an AI generator. AI may be used to generate ideas or grasp science concepts in a different format. Work turned in using AI will need to be redone without AI and receive late credit, and a 20% reduction of the grade earned.



Contact Information:

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