

United States History

- **Relevance**

- **Rigor**

- **Relationships**

Mr. Jeff Pietrowski

Room 136

Contact Information:

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Class Web Site: <http://ushistoryteam81.weebly.com>

Team Web Site: <http://gmsteam81.weebly.com>

Online Textbook: Michigan Open Book Project – “United States History: Reconstruction to Today”
This will be shared with the students through Google Classroom and Class Web Site

Guidelines:

- * **Focus on Learning**
- * **Accept Differences**

- ***Respect People**
- ***Be Responsible**

I believe that mutual respect and establishing positive relationships are important aspects in order to have a successful classroom environment. We all do best when we have an atmosphere where people are comfortable to learn and are willing to express their thoughts.

U.S. History Curriculum:

Eighth grade U.S. history is a continuation from fifth grade social studies. Students were taught about the Exploration of the New World and Emergence of the United States through the American Revolution. In tenth grade, students will continue their U.S. History exploration from where eighth grade leaves off.

Eras Covered in 8th Grade:

- Revolution and the New Nation (1754-1815)
- Expansion and Reform (1801-1861)
- Civil War and Reconstruction (1850-1877)

While studying each era, students will be learning about the historical context/characteristics from the time period and then be able to apply that information to answer historical questions. A strong emphasis is placed on reading/evaluating information from primary/secondary sources, helping students be able to develop a claim that answers historical questions and be able to use evidence while explaining their reasoning.

My goal is to help students to become lifelong learners that are critical thinkers with an appreciation for the social sciences. In order to help bridge the gap between history and the issues of our times, students will be analyzing current event issues on a weekly basis. The idea is for students to begin to realize that we are living through history and so were the people that we study.

Grading:

50% Tests and Projects 30% Quizzes and Projects 20% Class Work/Homework

A	97-100	B+	87-89	C+	77-79	D+	67-69
A	93-96	B	83-86	C	73-76	D	63-66
A-	90-92	B-	80-82	C-	70-72	D-	60-62
		F	below 60				

In order to earn 8th grade U.S. History credit, students need to average a passing grade over the three trimesters.

- **Tests & Quizzes:** Unit Tests & Quizzes will vary in each unit of study (every 3-5 weeks). Students will have access to test reviews to help them prepare. Tests will have knowledge level questions, document, chart, and/or map interpretation/inquiry questions, and expository writing.
- **Projects:** Projects are a great source of authentic assessment. We will be working on a variety of projects so that students can utilize different learning styles and expressions of understanding.
- **Class Work & Homework:** It is very important to stay on top of daily assignments. These assignments are the foundation to learning and being successful on assessments.

Parent Portal: Grandville Public School utilizes Infinite Campus for an online grade-book, attendance, and school calendar information. This can be an invaluable tool for students, parents, and teachers to be aware of the student's status in class. Please ask a secretary in the school office on how to access Infinite Campus.

Procedures:

- **Expectations:** It is the responsibility of the student, teacher, and parent to work together to ensure a successful year. In order to help achieve this success, it is crucial to have a supportive educational environment with open lines of communication. If problems arise it is important to be proactive. Possible interventions: contact via email/phone, student and/or parent meeting with teacher(s), detention, or administrative assistance. Student learning is a group activity.
- **Extra-Help:** If your child is struggling to find success in class I am available to meet before school, during lunch, or after school. Please have them arrange a time to meet with me.
- **"Whatever's":** Team 81 uses a three "Whatever Policy" when students need to leave class or enter late without an excused pass. Students get three "Whatever's" per trimester and on the fourth they will receive a detention. Once the detention is served students get three additional "Whatever's". This policy can be adapted for any student with special circumstances.
- **Late Work Policy:** According to the American History Department guidelines, late class work/homework points are reduced 50%. In order to earn partial credit, all late-work is due before the assessment/test from that unit of study. Exceptions can be made based on individual circumstances. Late quizzes, tests, or projects are expected to be made up within one week of the due date and could have a gradual loss of points based on why they are late. Current Events can be turned in for late points **anytime** during the trimester.
- **Assessment Retakes:** Credit may be earned for failed assessments once the student has completed the following steps: schedule a meeting with teacher to develop plan, all missing assignments turned in, complete test corrections, & can exhibit competency on missed knowledge/skills.
- **Make – up Work:** When students have an excused absence they are able to receive full credit for all work. The student and teacher need to discuss the details and an appropriate timeline for the due date. It is the student's responsibility to ask for make-up work.

Class Materials:

- 3-Ring Binder with 2 Pockets
- 2 Pocket Folder
- Google Chrome Book
- Pen and/or Pencil

I am looking forward to a great year of learning! Please contact me if you have any questions or concerns.

Parent Signature: _____

Student Signature: _____