

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>

Textbook: **Students can access the textbook from the class website or sign-out a paper copy.**

Guidelines:

*** Be Respectful**

***Be Responsible**

***Be Resilient**

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 apply that information to answer historical questions. A strong emphasis will be placed on reading/evaluating information from primary/secondary sources. Using this information, students will develop claims that answer historical questions. Students will then apply evidence that helps explain their reasoning. My goal is to help students choose to become lifelong learners that use critical thinking skills in the world of social sciences.

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 (Learning Target Reviews) will vary with each unit of study (every 2-4 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.

Procedures:

- **Expectations:** It is the responsibility of the student, teachers, and parent(s) 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. Team 81 core-teacher meeting times are on Mon. & Wed. from 9:00-9:30 am. 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.
- **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 and/or Guided Reading assignments, & can exhibit competency on missed knowledge/skills and/or take an alternate test.
- **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 **or** 2 Pocket Folder
- Google Chrome Book (charged)
- Pen and/or Pencil
- Be able to access textbook from class website or sign-out a hard copy textbook (books will be provided for in class activities)

Donation List: If you are able to donate any of the following items it would be greatly appreciated:

Tissues, Hand Sanitizer, Colored Pencils, Crayons, Glue Sticks and/or Markers

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

Parent Signature: _____

Student Signature: _____