

Welcome to 8th Grade Social Studies American History

Teacher: Ms. Fugate Room: 227 Team: Big Shot Cannons

What We Will Be Learning:

Throughout the year, we'll be studying a variety of topics relating to U.S. history. Some of the major topics we'll be covering this year include (but aren't limited to):

- A review of the American Revolution, its key figures and historical impact
- The formation of the American government and its guiding documents
- America's economic growth and development
- The Antebellum Period, democratic ideals, and growing tension between the North and South over slavery
- The Civil War and the Reconstruction Era
- The last half of the 19th Century, including changing demographic/immigration, injustices in society, geographic and economic changes, and the Industrial Revolution and urban development

Additionally, we'll be looking at the ideas of patriotism, compromise and conflict resolution, and our role as citizens. We will also be focusing on informative and argumentative, research-based writing, as well as using and differentiating between primary and secondary sources. We will work on various note-taking strategies, working collaboratively, and effectively using technology to present information.

My Expectations:

- Come to class prepared. Bring any materials you will need to class, this includes your textbook and i-Pad. I'll let you know when you DO NOT need these.
- Your i-Pad should be charged. You'll be using it almost everyday, for at least part of the class period. I do have a couple chargers available, should you need one.

- Be respectful of your classmates, teacher, and the room. This includes others' belongings. You will be working together on a regular basis. It will be easier for everyone if you're kind to one another. Be a team player. If you need help, ask for it—ask me or ask someone at your table. If it's after school, send me an email. I respond pretty quickly.
- Be willing to try. Challenge yourself. Don't give up before you've begun.
- Check the boards on your way into the room. Figure out what we'll be doing, how we'll be doing it, and what "zone" we'll be in for the hour.

Grading / Late Work / Absent Work:

- Work is due on the expected due date. If you leave the classroom at the end of the hour without turning the assignment in, it is considered late.
- Work turned in on time is graded as:

○ A = 100 - 93	○ C = 76 - 73
○ A- = 92 - 90	○ C- = 72 - 70
○ B+ = 89 - 87	○ D+ = 69 - 67
○ B = 86 - 83	○ D = 66 - 63
○ B- = 82 - 80	○ D- = 62 - 60
○ C+ = 79 - 77	○ F = 59 - 0
- I do accept late work. Students are allowed to turn in 3 late assignments per quarter ONE day late; these assignments will be worth full credit. After that, any late assignment will be worth half credit. Once a unit has ended, late work for that unit will not be accepted.
- For absent work, it is your responsibility to figure out what you missed by either talking to a classmate, emailing me, checking Blackboard, checking the red filing folder on the wall. You have the number of days you missed to make up the work. For example, if you were absent for three days, you have three days to make up the work. After that point, it will be considered late.
 - If you do not understand the assignments / material that you missed, you need to come see me. Set up a time—before / after school works best for me, but Silent Reading (if you have C Lunch) is also an option.
 - There will typically be class notes / screencasts / other resources on Blackboard to accompany the assignments. Make sure you've checked for these resources.
- Homework / classwork is worth 40% of your overall grade; assessments are worth 60% of your overall grade.

Group Work:

- You will be collaborating in groups on a regular basis. You are expected to be an active group member. If a student is observed not participating during group activities, that student's grade will be reduced.
- Please consult the "How Are We Learning" for an explanation of what is expected of you as a group member, as well as to see what materials your group will need and what the group's goal for the hour will be.
- If you are collaborating with a group and have materials that your group needs, please share the files with your group by using Google Docs, DropBox or OneDrive. This way everyone has the materials, and should someone be absent, the group won't have to do extra work.

Extra Credit:

- There will be extra credit opportunities offered on rare occasions. Typically, these will be whole group challenges. Extra credit will also, occasionally, be awarded to work that is above and beyond the requirement.
- Extra credit does not replace credit. If you are missing work, do not ask for extra credit to bring up your grade. Instead, do the regular credit assignments and turn them in; though, they're only worth reduced credit. This will have much more of an impact on your overall grade than any extra credit opportunity.

Discipline:

- Violation of school or classroom rules and / or offensive, disrespectful behavior will be met with disciplinary action.
 - Step 1: Verbal Warning
 - Step 2: Temporary Removal from Classroom (Hallway) / Conversation in the Hall
 - Step 3: Lunch / SR Detention and Phone Call Home
 - Step 4: After school Detention and Phone Call Home
 - Step 5: Referral to the Office
 - I reserve the right to bypass any of these steps, depending on the nature of the infraction.
 - Offensive language /bullying will not be tolerated.

Helpful Supplies:

- You will need a binder or folder.
- An 8½ X 11 notebook. You can also use EverNote on your i-Pad.
- Pens/Pencils, highlighters and coloring supplies
 - I do have some of highlighters and coloring supplies in my classroom; however, I don't have enough for everyone. It would be helpful if you could bring your own, if you have them. I will let you know when you need them.
- Ear Buds. I have a class set; however, they can't leave my classroom. If you'd rather not use the "community ear buds," please bring your own.
- Kleenex and hand sanitizer

Other Information:

- Grades are updated at least weekly. Please check PowerSchool / Parent Portal often.
- All lesson plans, assignments and resources are posted on Blackboard. Please understand that lesson plans are always subject to change.

Contact Information:

- The best way to contact me is via email: TaraFugate@FraserK12.org
- My classroom phone number is: 586-439-7527. The best time to call is either on my prep hour—2nd hour, 9:03-9:57—or after school. If I don't answer, leave a voicemail, and I'll return the call the following day.
- Please, don't hesitate to contact me with questions or concerns.

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Please Return This Portion of the Syllabus:

- I plan to use my classroom Weebly (linked on Richards' webpage) to display student work and showcase exciting things that are happening in my 8th Grade American History. Please check one of the boxes below:

I don't mind if my child's work/picture is displayed on Weebly / the Internet

I would prefer my child's work/picture not be displayed on Weebly / the Internet

- Please circle your preferred method of contact: Phone Call: _____ Email: _____
(Preferred Phone Number) (Preferred Email Address)

Print Your Name

Signature