

8th Grade Social Studies - Syllabus

Mrs. MacMillan 2021 - 2022



Course Description:

Eighth grade Social Studies, both the Advanced class and the Academic class, focus on the study of United States history from British colonization through 1890. The colonial era, the American Revolution, the origins of our national government, westward expansion, the Civil War, and Reconstruction will be examined. Students will enhance their communication and critical thinking skills, while learning about the events, trends, and themes of history.

UNITS OF STUDY:

- Unit 1: Colonial America
- Unit 2: The American Revolution
- Unit 3: The Constitution
- Unit 4: Expansion of American Society
- Unit 5: The Civil War and Reconstruction
- Unit 6: Westward Expansion
- Unit 7: Industrialization and Immigration
- *Advanced class only: National History Day research and presentation

Expectations:

1. Everyone, including the teacher, will be treated with respect.
2. Put downs or purposefully hurtful comments or actions will not be tolerated.
3. Arrive to class on time and prepared by bringing your binder and a pencil with you every day.
4. Your work is YOUR responsibility.

Students are expected to come to class prepared to learn and ready to work everyday with pencils, paper, a fully charged laptop AND a positive attitude. Materials handed out in class will be expected to be stored in date order in a binder. School supplied laptops (with fully charged batteries) will also be expected in class every day. Without these important elements, you are unprepared for class and your success in class will be compromised.

RESOURCES:

We use **two text resources** in class. Our main resource is from the TCI program – History Alive – The United States Through Industrialism. History Alive texts are available through [Classlink - CLICK HERE](#)

A supplemental text, The American Nation, is also used, and we have enough so that most students would be able to check out a copy to keep at home for the school year. (We use a ‘class set’ here in school) *See Mrs. Mac to check out a home copy

Canvas: Our class **CANVAS** site will have most of the copies of materials handed out/used in class. Homework will also be posted on **CANVAS** each night it is assigned. **PARENTS: There is a Parent Sign-on for access to the Canvas materials and calendar. Go to www.cbsd.org/canvas and look for the parent sign up square. Your student will need to be nearby to provide a ‘pairing’ code.*

OneNote is also used to complete and turn in work. This is sometimes an easier option because all work is automatically saved for the student, and work is able to be reviewed by the teacher immediately. *PARENTS: You will need to have your student show you their OneNote assignments. As of now, there isn’t a way for you to ‘Observe’ the OneNote materials as you can on Canvas. Email me if you have any questions or concerns!*

Final Grading System:

- Each marking period is 22.5% of your final grade (report card grades = 90%).
- Standardized CB “Core” assessments make up the remaining 10% of your final grade.

Marking Period Grades:

- **Summative Work (90%):** Tests are always announced in advance and range in format with multiple choice, fill-in-the-blank, short answer, and/or essay. Quizzes may or may not be announced and will range in value and format. Written summative assignments may be of any length, but most are a few paragraphs at most.
- **Formative (10%):** Any “Formative” assignments including vocabulary, content area work, and writing will fall into this category. Graded activities will be presented in many forms, thus providing each and every student with an equal chance of succeeding.
 - ☞ Homework, critical for successful learning, will be counted in this section as well. Homework* (written or otherwise) will usually be assigned 3-4 times a week and will be checked for completion. Homework is expected to be completed with quality and is due at the beginning of class. If homework assigned is reading, expect a quick “checkpoint” quiz that covers the main idea.

2nd Chance Learning: In order to have a “second chance” (extended opportunity to show learning), a student MUST have demonstrated effort prior to the assessment and MUST continue to make an effort toward the second chance opportunity. The incentive to be eligible for second chance learning may be grade based or based on other factors that can be motivating for the student. *A “Second chance” is NOT given and/or NOT offered to a student who chose not to prepare, study or ‘try’ the first time on an assignment or assessment.

Make-up and Late Work:

Make-up Work Policy: Generally, the time allocated for make-up work will equal the number school days missed. It is the student’s responsibility to obtain any missed assignments and to re-schedule tests (before or after class). If you are absent from class (especially for an extended period), you should check Share Point or email me (kmacmill@cbsd.org) to make arrangements for your work to be completed. *PARENTS: Please know that I will make adjustments to this policy for extended illnesses/absences. Contact me to work out a plan!*

NOTE: 1 day absence/lateness = Because major assignments/assessments are announced in advance, you should be prepared to submit/take/make-up any research projects/ tests/quizzes on your first day back in school.

Late Work Policy: Penalties of varying degrees will be applied to late work (*depending on nature of assignment, quality of work, & severity of lateness*), but late/incomplete work is definitely better than not ever submitting it! Half credit or even proficient scores are possible. Prolonged absences or extenuating circumstances may merit additional time (*see teacher as needed*). Students should contact the teacher before an assignment is due if questions exist or expectations were not understood during class.

**Note: I reserve the right to give make-up tests and quizzes that are different from the test originally given.*

Statement for Academic Dishonesty:

Academic honesty is expected in this class. Cheating in any form is unacceptable behavior. Cheating is cause for a student to lose membership/eligibility in the Honor Society. Students found to be cheating on tests, quizzes, projects, or copying homework, or any written work will receive; consequences as deemed appropriate to the incident. Plagiarism of any type (including electronic) is considered cheating. Teachers will notify parents of the incident. When plagiarism is suspected, the teacher and the student will develop a plan for the assignment to be redone. Additionally, the student may receive a non-academic consequence. (Excerpted from the CBSD Student Handbook)

Contact Information: *Please feel free to contact me with questions or concerns!

Email: kmacmill@cbsd.org

Phone: 267-893-2800 ext. 6391

SIGNATURES: Student _____ Parent: _____