**8th Grade History Syllabus**

**Mr. McConnell**

**Van Hoosen Middle School**

**CURRICULUM:**

This course introduces students to the history of the United States from Colonial times through Reconstruction. The course is divided chronologically into eras. Students learn to place major events on a timeline and to analyze their causes and effects. Using primary and secondary sources, they explore time and place in nineteenth century America. They compare conflicting accounts of the past and, both orally and in writing, express informed judgments about significant events that shaped the nation. Within their historical study of nineteenth century America, students deepen their understanding of major geographical themes and basic economic concepts. They also build their understanding of American government from in-depth study of the United States Constitution and the evolution of the government it created during its first century.

**TOOLS:**

* America: History of our Nation– Textbook covering the first Americans through 1915. We will also be utilizing the textbook’s supplementary materials provided by Prentice Hall. The online book can be accessed at [www.pearsonsuccessnet.com](http://www.pearsonsuccessnet.com)
* Google Classroom - Classroom is available to anyone with Google Apps for Education, a free suite of productivity tools including Gmail, Docs, and Drive. Classroom is designed to help teachers create and collect assignments paperlessly. Students can keep track of what’s due on the Assignments page and begin working with just a click. Teachers can quickly see who has or hasn't completed the work. <https://classroom.google.com>
* Remind- Get text message reminders for homework, projects, papers , and tests
* Classroom Weebly Page- Our classroom web page has important links, announcements, and the weekly agenda

MATERIALS NEEDED DAILY: These materials need to be brought to class on a daily basis. Failure to have these materials will result in a tardy. (See tardy policy.)

* Textbook
* Folder or other Organizational System
* Lined Paper (Loose-leaf)
* Notebook or Composition Book for notetaking (kept in classroom)
* Highlighter
* Colored Ink Pen
* Pencil
* Eraser
* Colored Pencils
* Post-it Notes

**POLICIES, RULES, AND CONSEQUENCES**

**POLICIES:**

1. 3 tardies per marking period = 1 detention
2. Limited passes: be prepared and take care of personal needs before class! Students will be allowed three opportunities per cardmarking to leave the room to go to their lockers to retrieve forgotten materials, use the restroom, or get a drink. After the three opportunities have been used, leaving the room will result in being marked tardy (see above tardy policy). After 3 tardies, a detention will be given when required homework or materials are not brought to class. Passes will tracked in planners.
3. After an absence, you, the student, are responsible for missed class work. All make-up work is due the next day (one day per each day of absence). **Any pre-announced work, test, or quiz is due the day you return.** Copies of makeup work are available in the classroom upon your return.
4. Late work is discouraged, but will be taken for partial credit with a ten percent deduction. Late work will not accepted after the end of the unit it was assigned in. It should be turned into the Late Work bin.
5. All work must be labeled with your name, date, and hour. Assignments handed in without a name will be treated as late assignments.
6. Required materials must be brought to class daily.

**RULES:**

1. Follow all directions as soon as they are given.
2. Be in your seat with the proper materials at the designated starting time. Homework should be out and bellwork, if assigned, should be in the process of being completed when the bell rings. Failure to do so will result in a tardy.
3. Stay in your assigned area unless you have been given permission to go elsewhere.
4. Be respectful of people and property. Treat others as you would like to be treated.
5. No irresponsible or disruptive behavior.

**CONSEQUENCES:**

1. One warning, verbal or non-verbal
2. Move seat away from others
3. Detention
4. Phone call home
5. Office Referral and possible Step System placement

**NOTE: these consequences may not be applied in this particular order.**

**GRADING, HELP, AND TIPS FOR SUCCESS**

**GRADES**

Grades will be done on a **weighted basis** including all components of the class. All assignments will be corrected, but while some assignments will be graded for accuracy, others may be checked in on a credit/no credit basis.

To ensure accuracy of student corrected work, failure to accurately indicate in incorrect answer will result in double the points being deducted for that question.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Daily Work and Homework | 40% |
| Projects, Essays, Quizzes, and Tests | 50% |
| Participation | 10% |
| Total | 100% |

Students will have at least one week notice prior to all tests. Quizzes may be random or announced. Feel free to discuss your grade with me at any time**.**

Citizenship grades are determined by your classroom behavior. Students who remember to come to class with the necessary supplies, turn homework in on time, participate in classroom discussions, and demonstrate overall good conduct in class will earn top citizenship grades. Citizenship grades will be given as follows.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Grade** | **Description** |
| 1- *Excellent* | -  demonstrates classroom leadership  - demonstrates outstanding conduct  - shows interest and enthusiasm  -  contributes consistently  -  exerts positive influence |
| 2- *Good* | -  demonstrates generally good conduct  -  displays cooperative behavior and attitude  -  acts responsibly by being prepared for assignments  -  contributes to class on a regular basis |
| 3- *Fair* | -  requires little or no correction  -  needs few or no reminders about conduct  -  does not distract others' work  -  treats others respectfully |
| 4- *Poor* | -  often requires correction  -  causes disturbances  -  needed correction outweighs contributions  -  unprepared frequently  -  attends irregularly, often tardy  -  wastes class time, is inattentive |
| 5- *Disruptive* | -  demonstrates rude and/or disruptive behavior  -  does not respond to corrective action  -  interferes with the learning and rights of others  -  displays negative attitude |

**HELP**

Please ask for help when you need it, don’t leave class confused! Questions are always welcome. I am available during homeroom or after school. I read my e-mail regularly, so it is the most effective way to contact me. You may reach me at cmcconnell@rochester.k12.mi.us.

I am excited to get to know you; and I look forward to a fun, productive, and interactive year in history!

8th Grade History

Supplemental Video List

In order to expose students to a broad range of ideas and to supplement information found in the textbook a variety of print and video resources may be utilized.  The following is a list of video resources used in past

years which may or may not be used in the classroom this year.

*American Experience: The Donner Party*. Dir. Ric Burnes. Perf. David McCullough, J.D. Cannon. Videocassette. PBS Home Video, 2001. Video

Tape. – Rating: NR

*A More Perfect Union: America Becomes a Nation*. DVD. National Center for Constitutional Studies, 2004. DVD. -  Rating: NR

*Africans in America: America's Journey Through Slavery*. Dir. Noland Walker, Jacquie Jones. Perf. Angela Bassett, Jeremy Rabb. DVD.

WGBH Boston, 2000. DVD. – Rating: NR

*Davy Crockett: King of the Wild Frontier*. Dir. Norman Foster. Perf. Fess Parker, Buddy Ebsen.

DVD. Walt Disney Video, 2004. DVD. – Rating: PG

*The Divided Union - The Story of the Civil War 1861-1865*. Dir. Peter Batty.Videocassette. Home Vision, 1998. Video Tape. – Rating: NR

*Biography: Frederick Douglass*. Videocassette. A&E Home Video, 1994. Video Tape. – Rating: NR

*Founding Brothers*. Dir. The History Channel. A & E Home Video, 2002. DVD. – Rating: G

*Andrew Jackson: Good, Evil, and The Presidency. Dir. Carl Byker and Mitch Wilson. Perf. Martin Sheen.*

*PBS, 2008. DVD. – Rating: NR*

*The History Channel Presents the War of 1812*. Dir. Gary Foreman. Perf. Mark D. Hutter, Sally E. Bennett. DVD.

A&E Home Video, 2005. DVD. Rating: NR

*The History Channel Presents the Civil War*. Dir. David de Vriew, Donna E. Lisitana. Perf. Gary Hubb, Tony Jay. DVD. History Channel, 2007.

DVD. – Rating: NR

*The Last Days of the Civil War*. DVD. A&E Home Video, 2003. DVD. – Rating: NR

*Lewis and Clark: Great Journey West*. Dir. William Kronick, Jack Kaufman. Perf. Jeff Bridges.

DVD. National Geographic Video, 2002. DVD. – Rating: NR

*Lewis and Clark - The Journey of the Corps of Discovery*. Dir. Ken Burns. Perf. Hal Holbrook, Adam Arkin. DVD. PBS Paramount, 2004. DVD. Rating: NR

*Liberty: The American Revolution*. Videocassette. PBS - Paramount, 2004. Video Tape. – Rating: NR

*Liberty's Kids (Assorted Episodes)*. Dir. Marsha Goodman: Judith Reilly. Videocassette. PBS. Video Tape. – Rating: G

*The Louisiana Purchase*. DVD. A&E Home Video, 2006. DVD. – Rating: NR

*Pocahontas*. Dir. Eric Goldberg, Mike Gabriel. Perf. Mel Gibson, Linda Hunt. DVD. Walt Disney Home Entertainment, 1995. DVD. – Rating: G

*Sacagawea: Heroine of the Lewis and Clark Journey*. Dir. Rolf Forsberg. DVD. Questar, 2004. DVD. – Rating: NR

*School House Rock!*. Dir. Tom Warburton. Perf. Lauren Yohe, Tom Yohe. DVD. Walt Disney Video, 2002. DVD. – Rating: NR

*Taking Chance*. Perf. Kevin  Bacon. DVD. HBO Home Video. 2009. DVD – Rating: NR

*Unchained Memories: Readings from the Slave Narratives*. Dir. Ed Bell, Thomas Lennon. Perf. Whoopi Goldberg, Angela Bassett. DVD. HBO Home Video, 2003. DVD. – Rating: NR

*Uncle Tom's Cabin*. Dir. Stan Lathan. Perf. Avery Brooks, Samuel L. Jackson, Phylicia Rashad. Videocassette.

Republic Pictures, 1997. VideoTape. – Rating: NR

**8th Grade History Syllabus / Supplemental Video Acknowledgement**

**Mr. McConnell**

**Van Hoosen Middle School**

Please sign below to acknowledge that you have reviewed and understand the class rules and policies.

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Student Name Hour

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Student Signature Date

Please sign below to acknowledge that you have reviewed the class rules and policies with your student, and have been informed of the videos which may be shown in American History 8 this year.

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Parent Signature Date

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Parent’s Email Address