

8th Grade U.S. History Course Syllabus

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Room # 208

COURSE DESCRIPTION

The objective of this course is to promote an appreciation of U.S. History while also developing literacy skills at the highest level possible. Lessons are designed to be well-rounded and challenging with an emphasis on current events and their connection to the past. Students will gain a working knowledge of the concepts and principles of the study of American History--from Colonization to Reconstruction--while developing their reading, writing, media, and research skills. Students will be exposed to the historical, geographic, political, economic, and sociological events which influenced the development of the United States.

First Quarter

European Colonization
The British Colonies
Life in the British Colonies

Second Quarter

French & Indian War
The Road to American Revolution
The American Revolution

Third Quarter

The American Founding
The Early Republic
Age of Jackson

Fourth Quarter

Antebellum America
The American Civil War
Reconstruction

TEXTBOOK/CURRICULUM

United States History (8th Grade): Beginnings to 1877; Houghton Mifflin Harcourt. A wide variety of information and activities will be pulled from various sources in addition to the textbook.

GoogleClassroom will be an integral part of classroom instruction

ASSESSMENT

Students' grades will be determined by using the following categories and percentages:

Practice	--	30%
Performance (Mastery)	--	70%

Grading Scale: A (90-100) B (80-89) C (70-79) D (60-69) F (0-59)

- A majority of the class grades will come from the "Practice" category (e.g. bell ringers, in-class assignments, discussions, homework)
- There will be no less than eight "Performance" grades (quizzes, tests, projects)

CLASSROOM EXPECTATIONS/RULES

1. Be on time and where you are supposed to be. (Prompt)
2. Be prepared and on task. (Prepared)
3. Ask for what you need. (Positive)
4. Strive for excellence and always do your best. (Productive)
5. Respect the rights, responsibility, and property of others. (Polite)

You are responsible for reading and following the student handbook as well as classroom procedures and classroom rules. When you make a choice that violates classroom and/or school rules, disciplinary consequences will be implemented. Please refer to the following documents found on the tvcs.org website under “middle school”, “Forms/Documents/Newsletters”:

- VCMS Student Handbook
- 21-22 Classroom Behavior Management Plan

VCMS Bell Schedule

1st period: 8-8:50

2nd period: 8:54-9:50

3rd period: 9:54-10:45

4th period: 10:49-11:40

5th period: 11:44-1:05 (including a 25-minute lunch period)

6th period: 1:09-2:00

7th period: 2:04-2:55

PROCEDURES

Daily Required Materials: When the tardy bell rings, students should be in their assigned seat with their Chromebook, spiral notebook, and any other appropriate materials (bags are placed under the desk). We will be limiting the use of shared materials (books, pencils, etc...) So bring your chromebook fully charged each day. I would even suggest bringing your charger with you just in case your battery gets low toward the end of the day.

Google Classroom: Homework and classwork assignments will be placed in Google Classroom. Please keep in mind that Google Classroom is an extension of the classroom. Anything posted in Google Classroom will be treated as though it were stated openly during class. Parents should use the Teacher Connection page to view class details; however, any parent who is interested in learning more about class activities and due dates should refer to the Google Classroom page. **Students will always be informed of due dates in a timely fashion.**

Bell Ringer/Dismissal: During the first 5 minutes of class, students will complete the daily bell ringer which will be on the projector/whiteboard. This is a graded assignment which will be turned in when requested by the teacher.

- Raise your hand to leave your desk for any reason (e.g., sharpen pencil) or to ask a question.
- If a student needs to leave the classroom for any reason (e.g., restroom), s/he must sign out with the teacher before leaving the classroom.
- At the end of the class period, when the classroom is in order and all students are in their seats, Mr. Stroud will dismiss you to leave, not the bell.

Make-up Work: All assignments will be posted in GoogleClassroom prior to the week in which they will be asked to be due. Students will not need to ask the teacher for physical copies of the assignment if they miss a day of class because everything will be in their GoogleClassroom already. Parents should monitor their child's GoogleClassroom if they would like to keep up with what is being taught throughout the week.

Late Work: Most work will be assigned in GoogleClassroom for the entire week. I will expect that students keep up with their assignments day by day (you can upload work into GoogleClassroom without submitting the assignment) and all assignments will be put in the gradebook by Sunday afternoon. Any and all assignments not turned into the teacher by Sunday morning at 8 a.m. will receive a zero. There may be exceptions to the assignments posted Friday (to give students a little extra time if necessary), but that will only be if the teacher has spoken with the student beforehand. For option 3, VCS online students, all work is due by Sunday morning at 8 a.m. of the week in which they were assigned.

ADDITIONAL ASSISTANCE AND COMMUNICATION

I am available to any student or parent requesting additional assistance or needing additional information. If you choose to email me, please remember to put "Student" in the subject line so your email will reach me through the VCS web filter. If you prefer to contact me by phone, please call the school office and leave a message requesting me to return your phone call. If I need to contact you, I will first try to contact you through email unless you have indicated a preference for phone contact on the return form.

Follow Link to Access the Google Signature Form:

<https://forms.gle/E7EV6YPufj9DCWG96>