**8th Grade American History (2019-2020)**

 *“A people without a knowledge of their past history, origin, and culture is like a tree without roots.”* - Marcus Garvey

The purpose of this course is to introduce students to American History. The course will begin with the Colonial Period and end with the Civil War. High School American History starts with the Civil War and progresses to the Modern Era. This course will reflect the sunshine state standards, which all students in the state of Florida are expected to master. A knowledge of America’s past is vital to understanding America’s present. An understanding of the society and circumstances into which one is born requires an understanding of the past. The wisdom that comes with this knowledge (once acquired) is something that no one can take away.



**Textbook:**  *America: History of Our Nation*; Prentice Hall

**Grading:**

Quarter grades will be computed by the weighted averages as shown below:

 Tests & Quizzes….……………………………………………………..60%

Classwork, Notes, Homework, & Participation.…………40%

 TOTAL                   100%

**Tests & Quizzes:**

The length of time for tests and quizzes will vary, depending on the length of the test and quiz. The format of tests and quizzes will also vary, but regardless of the format, there is to be no talking during tests or quizzes. Students who do so will lose points and if the problem persists will receive a grade of zero. If finished early, students will either be given an assignment to complete or will be expected to read silently.

**Classwork, Homework, & Participation:**

Classwork is to be turned into the bin at the end of the class. Homework is to be turned into the bin at the beginning of class on the day that it is due. Students are asked to try their best to turn in their homework before the bell rings so that we can start class immediately. Students are expected to participate in class activities, assignments, and discussions. Every three weeks, students will receive a participation grade. Also every three weeks, students will be expected to turn in their notebooks and will receive a grade for the notes.

**Required Materials:**

Every day, students are expected to come to class with two sharpened pencils, a pen, loose leaf paper, and a notebook dedicated to this class only.

**Classroom Rules:**

The focus for this classroom is respect. Students will:

\*Respect the teacher - The teacher is in charge of the classroom and the learning process. Students must follow teacher directions and show him respect. Likewise, the teacher promises to treat all students with respect and courtesy. If a student ever feels aggrieved by the way the teacher handles something, they are encouraged to speak to him about it at the end of class.

\*Respect one another - The culture in this classroom will be one where everyone is respected and valued. It is imperative that students treat one another with respect and kindness. Students should feel free to express their thoughts and opinions without fear of ridicule. Positivity and kind words to fellow classmates are not required, but they are certainly welcome.

\*Respect the learning process - The primary reason students are here is to learn. Students are not to engage in behavior that detracts from the learning process. Students are not to devalue or disparage academic learning.

\*Respect the classroom - This classroom is less than a year old and it is up to us to keep this room in the great condition that it currently is in. Students are not to eat, chew gum, throw trash on the floor (no matter how small,) or leave items under their desks or around the room.

**Absences:** It is the responsibility of absent students to approach the teacher after their absence to inquire as to what they missed and what they need to make up. If students do not do this, they will receive zeros for any classwork, assignments, quizzes, tests, etc. that the teacher determines it necessary for them to have completed. Also, students who know they will be absent are encouraged to let the teacher know ahead of time. This will make it easier for both teacher and student to see that the student does not fall behind.

**Personal Note To Students:** I am looking forward to working with you. History has always been my favorite academic subject. It is, in my opinion, the greatest story ever written or if you prefer the greatest movie ever made. I hope I can inspire you to have a love for history that causes you to examine it in depth and allows you to see the present in new ways. I am not here to tell you what to think, but to help you develop the tools so that you can examine and analyze information and come to your own conclusions; conclusions that may well be very different from my own. As the great Albert Einstein once said, “Education is not the learning of facts, but the training of the mind to think.”

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By signing below, I understand the requirements of the course and will be responsible for all the above information provided to me.

Student:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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Parent/Guardian:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_Date\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian (please print):\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_