

8th Grade Social Studies (U.S. History) - 2015-2016

Mrs. Hollett

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Website link: www.MrsHollett.weebly.com

530-4148 (voice mail)

Welcome to my class and 8th Grade Social Studies! I hope you had a wonderful summer. Eighth grade is an exciting year as you prepare for high school and enjoy your last year as a middle school student.

"History should be studied because it is essential to individuals and to society, and because it harbors beauty."—Peter N. Stearns

8th Grade Social Studies:

United States History: During this year, we will focus on learning more about the American Revolution, the creation of our government and how it works, westward migration, and the Civil War. The events of our past shape our lives - as individuals and as a country. Understanding history helps us make sense of who we are and influences our decisions about our future. Our primary classroom text is Holt's Call to Freedom, but we will be drawing from a variety of print and

non-print sources to study U.S. History. In January-February, students will complete a Social Studies Classroom Based Assessment (CBA) where they will pick a constitutional issue of interest to research and present. We will be participating in Junior Achievement Finance Park in December and visit the state capitol in March. We need parent volunteers for both field trips, and will have a sign up at Open House on September 22nd. Please join us!

Interactive Notebook: Interactive notebooks (composition books) will be used for taking notes, as well as other activities where you will be asked to process information presented in class. They will encourage you to be creative, independent writers and thinkers. The interactive notebooks will be used nearly every day and will primarily be stored in class except for occasions when they are needed to complete an assignment or activity at home. **Interactive notebooks will be used in both Language Arts and Social Studies.**

Class Expectations & Guidelines:

I like to keep the classroom expectations simple, easy to understand, and positive. My expectations are ALL based on this simple principle:

You have the right to do what you want in class as long as it doesn't interfere with anyone else's right to LEARN or TEACH.

Hall Passes:

Anytime you are out of class you need a hall pass. You are expected to check with me before leaving, use the clipboard to sign out (name, date, location you are going to), use the pass hanging by the door, and sign back in when you return. Only one person at a time may use the hall pass (exceptions for emergencies only). You may ONLY go to one location at a time. In other words no signing out the pass to go to the bathroom and then making a quick side trip to your locker on the way back to class.

Electronics & Personal Devices (cell phones, iPads, Kindles, etc.):

Should remain in lockers unless specified. There will be times you can use them in class for projects, but I will give you plenty of advance warning. **Note - Personal Devices are NOT a necessary supply, as we have ChromeBooks and in class computers.*

Class supply list:

1 composition notebook (may need another later in the year if it fills up)

Pencils

Pens - black or blue and one other color for editing

Highlighters (3-4 colors preferred)

Colored pencils

Clear tape

2 pocket homework folder

Most general supplies can be shared between classes. Students should bring a pencil pouch with necessary supplies to class each day.

Agenda/Planner (provided by school) will be REQUIRED every day!

GRADING POLICY:

I base each student's grade upon points earned for daily assignments, assessments, and projects. A student's points are totaled and divided by the total number of possible points. The percentage is converted to a letter grade using the following scale:

A	100%-93%
A-	92%-90%
B+	89%-87%
B	86%-83%

B-	82%-80%
C+	79%-77%
C	76%-73%
C-	72%-70%

D+	69%-67%
D	66%-60%
F	59%-below

Homework: While not a daily occurrence, homework will be assigned at times. Often, homework will prepare you for the following day's activities. Failure to complete homework could result in making up work separately, missing out on class learning activities, and may be recorded in Parent Portal grades.

Missed work/late work: It is your responsibility to check the class website, talk to the teacher, and be in charge of any work that needs completion. Missed/late work can be turned in within a week of the due date (see note on late work at the end of this section). Students who were absent will have the same number of days out of school to make up any missed work. If you have been out for an extended absence, let's talk and figure out due dates - I am here to support you and help you get caught up.

Late work may result in a 10% grade reduction and may not be awarded full points. Many rubrics will only award an "exemplary" score to work that is on-time.

****Students (and parents) are encouraged to check Parent Portal for late or missing work. Be sure to click on the class to see all assignments.***

Revision of Assignments and Assessments:

Students may revise their written assignments of at least one paragraph in length and turn in the assignment/assessment to be graded again within a week of it being handed back. The student needs to turn in the original assignment with the revised assignment. Revision are only allowed when all other work has been turned in.

COMMUNICATION:

The best and most reliable way to reach me is through email. My email address is: **CoffeltHolleth@psd401.net**. I check email each school day and will make every effort to return your email in 24 hours or less. You can also leave a message on voicemail at 530-4148.

The best way for students and parent to stay informed is by using our class website (www.MrsHolleth.weebly.com) and Parent Portal.

Parent Portal: This is an online, web-based program that allows parents to monitor their child's academic progress and attendance on a daily basis. Grades are updated approximately every week, although sometimes when we are working on larger projects they may be updated less frequently. A blank cell indicates that an assignment has not yet been graded and a '0' typically means the assignment was not turned in at all (If you are not signed up for Parent Portal, please check the school website or contact the main office for directions.).

Classroom Website: I make every effort to update this site daily. There are occasions when that doesn't happen due to extenuating circumstances or technical issues. The website offers a window into our daily activities, upcoming assignments, homework, etc.. I will often include attachments of assignments, rubrics, and even pictures of the interactive notebook entries. This is especially helpful if students have been absent. There is also a simple contact form on the Main Page of my website for students and parents to contact me with questions, concerns, ideas, etc.

Please complete, sign, and return the attached page after you have read the information, understand how it applies to you, and shared it with a parent or guardian (have them sign it too!). Keep the rest of the letter as a reference.

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Please complete, sign, and return this page after you have read the information, understand how it applies to you, and shared it with a parent or guardian (and have them sign it too!). Keep the rest of the letter as a reference.

8th Grade Social Studies Period:

Printed Student Name:

Last

First

Student Signature

Date

Printed Parent/Guardian Name:

Last

First

Parent Signature

Date

Parent or Guardian's Email Address (Please print neatly):

Is there anything that you or your parent/guardian would like to share with me?

Example: work habits, strengths, interesting talents or skills, needs, etc.
