

History Handout – 8th Grade

As an 8th grader this year you will be studying United States History. We will cover events in the formation of America & developments throughout the country. The time frame is roughly 1763 to 1914 – the beginning of World War I. Included in this study will be a special emphasis on the Constitution of the United States & the amendments to the Constitution.

- Nearly all of your work should be done in class - except for special assignments like research papers. I will provide adequate class time to do your work, if you are able to stay on task.
- At one time our system of education required all 8th graders to pass the “Constitution Test” before being allowed to go on to high school; that is no longer a requirement to graduate, **but it will be a significant part of your grade for the 1st Trimester**.
- In order to prevent further wear & tear on books – as well as the students themselves – you will not be transporting history books back & forth to school every day. When a student feels the need to take a book home for additional work he/she will need to sign out for the book daily & will be held responsible for loss of or damage to the books.
- **You should have no reason to write in a book at all!** I do not care to have your name written in 14 different books just because you felt possessive of the book on a particular day.
- You should not use the “extra credit” plan in my class. This is the system where a student will do poor work for the majority of the trimester & then decide that they want a better grade on the report card & ask the teacher for extra credit. We can have a discussion at a later time if you are not happy with your class grade.
- You will be expected to have each & every history test signed by a parent. I will expect you to return your history tests – **signed by parents** – within 2 days. (This will affect your grade...)
- I hope that you will come to understand that learning is not an “event” in my class: rather, it should be a “process.” You are not capable of learning everything about a subject at one sitting: therefore, I hope that you will not wait until the night before a test (or the morning of a test!) to try to learn this material.
- As 8th graders you are expected to be role models for the younger students on campus. I do not expect “perfection”, but I will be looking for “progress.”
- Please inform your parents that I encourage them to contact me at any point in the year if they have questions about anything relating to this class or other school business.

I read the information on this paper, & I am very clear on all the information given. I understand that Mr. Brickey will do his best to help me learn not only history but other life lessons as well. I also understand that I have the freedom to do as well or as poorly as I want to in this class, & that I will be responsible for putting out whatever effort I choose to use in order to get whatever grade I want to earn.

Student Signature _____ Date ____/____/____

Parent Signature _____ Date ____/____/____