

EIGHTH GRADE SOCIAL STUDIES: AMERICAN HISTORY

Social studies are the integrated study of the social sciences and the humanities to promote civic competence. The primary purpose of social studies is to help young people develop the ability to make informed and reasoned decisions for the public good as citizens of a diverse, democratic society in an interdependent world. (National Council for Social Studies)

Through the study of social studies, students should come to a greater Catholic understanding of individual and group development, power and authority, rights and responsibilities, along with civic ideals and practices.

Topics:

- The Constitution and Government
- Causes and Consequences of the War of 1812
- Causes and effects of Industrial Revolution
- Causes and Consequences of the Civil War
- The Expansion of the Role of the United States in the World
- World War I
- The Twenties
- The Great Depression and The New Deal
- World War II
- Civil Rights Era
- The Cold War
- Aspects of American and World Geography

Learning Methods: A variety of instructional methods will be utilized in an effort to meet the different learning needs and styles of all students.

- Co-operative learning in group settings
- Debates_Taking and arguing different points of view
- Evaluation of primary and secondary sources
- Recognizing point of view and perspective
- Interpreting and creating political cartoons
- Taking notes- using different styles
- Analysis of illustrations and photographs
- Interpretation of graphs and charts
- Understand how to use resources to gather and analyze information
- Develop essay writing skills- how to write and develop an argument
- Research and gather information from a variety of sources
- Reading and understanding current events – using articles from the Upfront magazine
- Develop an understanding of how Catholics and the Catholic Church have influenced American history
- Use of thinking maps

- Students will have choice about how to display mastery of some concepts
- Participation in STEM and interdisciplinary activities
- Use of ipads – research, games, presentations-many of these are displayed on Seesaw

Grading:

Weighted values are assigned as follows-

First and third quarters: Class Work (can include participation) = 30%, Daily Homework= 10%, Quizzes= 20%, Tests/Projects= 40%

Second and fourth quarters: Class Work (can include participation) = 25%, Daily Homework= 10%, Quizzes= 20%, Tests/Projects= 35%, Final= 10%

Absences:

Class work and homework that are missed because of an absence may be turned in no later than 3 school days after the student returns to school. Long-term projects may still be due on the date assigned, if reasonable. If not, an extension of no more than 3 days may be given. Absence work is recorded as a "1" in the grade book. If not completed within the allotted time, the grade becomes a "0".

Extra help, questions and concerns:

Students may come to my room early to get extra help. However, please notify me in advance to ensure that I am available.

