**7th Grade Social Studies Syllabus**

The focus of 7th grade Social Studies will be on how America became a nation and began to expand up to and including the Civil War. The major focus of the year will be the United States Constitution, which there will be a final test on. The following will highlight what we will be studying and when, homework and grading procedures, supplies needed, and the class website where you can go to find more information.

**Geography - Beginning of year until mid 1st Quarter**

The beginning of the year will focus on the concept of geography and connecting it to the world around us. We will begin with detailing the 5 themes of geography, as well as looking at how to read and create accurate maps. The final project of this unit will be for the students to create a map, integrating all of the key terms and concepts that were learnt.

**Colonial History - Mid First Quarter until beginning of 2nd Quarter**

The second unit of the year will look at the colonial history of America, beginning with the settlement of Jamestown and concluding with the French and Indian War. We will focus on life of the settlers in early colonial America as well as their interactions with the Native people already here in America. We will also look at the beginning of the slave trade in America, and how it influenced the culture of the colonies.

**American Revolution and the U.S. Constitution - 2nd Quarter and first half of 3rd Quarter**

The major unit of the year will be our study of the American Revolution and the U.S. Constitution. First we will look at the causes of the American Revolution, focusing on the economic and political reasons. From there we will look at the actual fighting of the American Revolution.

From there, we will take a detailed look into the creation of the United States government, starting with the Articles of Confederation and ending with the U.S. Constitution. We will focus on the Declaration of Independence, what really is democracy, the Constitutional Convention, and the Bill of Rights. There will be a cumulative exam after this unit on all that was studied regarding the U.S. Constitution.

**American Expansion 1800 - 1850 - last half of 3rd Quarter**

We will take a quick study of how America expanded from 1800-1850, focusing on the Louisiana Purchase, the Industrial Revolution, the removal of Native people from their lands, and the movement West by settlers across the Mississippi River.

**The U.S. Civil War - 4th Quarter**

The final unit of study for the year will be the U.S. Civil War. We will look at the two different cultures involved in the conflict: Northern industrial versus Southern agricultural, and how that created the events leading up to the war. We will then take a detailed look at the key people, battles, and other events of the war, as well as look at the Underground Railroad. Lastly, we will look at how America rebuilt after the war, including the key Constitutional ammendments that helped change how the U.S. moved forward.

**Homework and Grading Procedures**

Homework will be 3-4 days a week, and will be required to be done to complete the higher level thinking work done in class. Besides daily homework, there will be many various projects assigned throughout the year that will require work to be done outside of class.

Grading will be done on a regular basis, with Power School updated several times a week. It is recommended that you check your grade often! Any late work will be reduced 25%, up until the end of the current unit of study, and 50% afterwards until the end of the quarter.

**Supplies**

Students will rely heavily on their Chromebooks in class to complete various assignment and projects. Besides the Chromebooks, students will also need a folder, a spiral notebook, blue or black pens, crayons, and markers. At home, it is recommended that students have access to the internet as well as a computer or mobile device to complete work assigned.

**Class Websites**

Students will be using Google Classroom to access assignments, videos, and to turn in assignments as well. They will be given a classroom code where they can access their specific class.

Parents and students can also access information such as homework, test dates, project dates, etc on **mrportalasocialstudies.weebly.com**

**Contact**

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