

Mrs. Goosman  
Room 5  
kategoosman@sjisd.org



## 8th Grade Social Studies: U.S History: The Making of America

In eighth grade, students explore the ideas, issues, and events from the framing of the Constitution up through Reconstruction and industrialization. After reviewing the founding ideals of the United States, particularly the Constitution, students explore the development of politics, society, culture, and economy in the United States to deepen conceptual understandings in civics, geography, and economics. In particular, studying the causes and consequences of the Civil War helps them to comprehend more profoundly the rights and responsibilities of citizens in a culturally diverse democracy.

### **CLASS EXPECTATIONS**

**I trust that you are respectful, responsible, and give your best effort.**

This means:

- You are focused in class, put forth your best effort, and accept responsibility for the choices you make.
- You stay on task, listen when others are speaking, and treat people with kindness.
- You clean up after yourself, ask permission before borrowing materials, and treat others' things carefully.

You will need a COMPOSITION NOTEBOOK for notetaking and a section of your 3 ring binder for handouts and other materials.

### **GRADING**

I use a standards-based grading scale in which student grades reflect academic performance. The goal is to move beyond the punitive effects of grading, towards an understanding that grades should reflect what students know and are able to do with the content, concepts, and skills learned in this class.

**Students not meeting standard will be given the opportunity to revise their assignments, improving their grade and demonstrating their ability to achieve success.** Work must be completed ON TIME and meet the REQUIREMENTS. After work is assessed and returned, students may revise.

- **PROCESS- 40% of total grade**  
These are the assignments and activities that are the process of learning. Participation in class discussions, group work, and processing assignments help you learn, explore and comprehend the essential questions of each unit.
- **ASSESSMENT: 60% of total grade**  
This is the evidence of learning and meeting the social studies standards. In each unit of study there will be core vocabulary and key concepts that will be assessed at the end of the unit. Assessments vary from projects, presentations, tests & quizzes, writing assignments.

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## **COMMUNICATION**

Family Access is an important communication tool. I post assignments in the calendar, include assignment directions and rubrics to download, and send class notification and updates. Please make sure your email is current and correct in Family Access.

Google Classroom is our virtual classroom in which students will turn in formal projects and assignments. Assignment directions, rubrics, calendar of assignments and resources will be posted in Google Classroom too.

## **EXTRA HELP**

If a student is having problems with a homework assignment or concepts presented in class, he/she is encouraged to see me for extra help as soon as possible. I am here to help you...just ask! Students may seek extra help during class, at lunch, in the mornings before school or pre-arrange for after school help. Students should let me know ahead of time when they plan to come in for extra help. Students are encouraged to seek extra help as questions arise and should not wait until the day before a major test!

## **ABSENCES**

If a student has missed a test or quiz due to an absence they need to see me upon their return to school to set up a make-up date. Should a student choose to make-up a test or quiz during a class period, they are still responsible for any missed during that regular class time. Taking a test during class does not excuse the student from work. Tests, quizzes and assignments missed due to an absence need to be made up in a timely manner. Students are responsible for finding out what they have missed following an absence. Students should check with the teacher as to what was missed and be certain to complete the work within the appropriate time frame, in order to earn credit.

## **LATE WORK**

Late work will only earn partial credit. Late work is defined as work that is turned in after the due date and is not the result of an absence. Late work will be accepted with a penalty, maximum score of a 3 on the rubric. Students will not be able to revise late work.

I look forward to working with every student to be their best.  
If you have any questions or concerns please contact me: [kategoosman@sjisd.org](mailto:kategoosman@sjisd.org)

Kate Goosman

