**SYLLABUS**

**Grade 7 American History**

**Mrs. Goodwin**

**Course Description:**

* This course will focus on American History from the discovery and exploration of the “New World” to the events leading up to the Civil War. More specifically, we will be looking at how the Europeans colonized in North America and what life was like for these Puritans and other settlers, as well as how geography effected the development of our nation. We will study the American Revolution; the events leading up to it and the causes and the Revolution itself. We will learn about the creation of our new nation and our attempts with government, leading into the Constitution. We will learn about this “living document” of our country/government. We will finish up the year looking at the expansion of our nation and the beginnings of our country’s political and geographical division prior to the Civil War. The NY State Common Core Framework for Social Studies can be found here:
* [**https://www.engageny.org/resource/new-york-state-k-12-social-studies-framework**](https://www.engageny.org/resource/new-york-state-k-12-social-studies-framework)

**A Note on “The New Social Studies”**

Many of you may remember Social Studies as learning facts about dates, places, people, etc. While this is still a part of the curriculum, there have been some great shifts in how we look at and teach our subject. Current Social Studies trends have us looking at primary and secondary sources; being able to read and analyze complex historic documents, closely examining sources for understanding, which includes determining the author’s purpose, the audience, occasion, etc. Being able to analyze sources is an important skill when studying history and in our everyday lives.

**Required Texts:**

* Students will be given copies of the following texts for the school year. They are responsible for the care of each book and will be held accountable for missing or damaged books.
* Gregory, Kristina. Dear America: The Winter of Red Snow, Diary of Abigail Jane Stewart, Valley Forge, PA 1777. Scholastic, Inc. 1996.
* Lester, Julius. A Day of Tears. Hyperion. New York, NY. 2005

**Supply List:**

* For this course, students will need a composition notebook, a folder and writing utensils

**Grading Policy:**

* Participation 20%
	+ Most of the work that we do in this course will be in class. Therefore, participation and attendance are ESSENTIAL for academic success. Twice per marking period I will assign a participation grade to each student based on their effort, participation, attendance and behavior.
* In-Class Assignments 25%
	+ The majority of the assignments will complete in this course will be class work, either cooperatively or individually, therefore this part of the student’s grade is heavily weighted.
* Homework 20%
	+ Generally, there is not a lot of homework for this class, but when there is it will be meaningful and serve to reinforce content.
* Literature Activities 10%
	+ This year we will be reading two works of historical fiction that support and enrich our curriculum. We will have periodic quizzes as well as activities and assessments based on our reading. During marking periods whe
* Tests and Quizzes 25%
	+ Tests and quizzes are a good tool for assessing student learning. We will have periodic quizzes on topics that we cover. All tests will be announced and we will spend anywhere from 1-3 days in class reviewing for exams. I will provide review sheets for exams as well.

One goal for the school year is to increase our student’s geographic awareness. Therefore we will be doing a lot of mapping, both of New York State and the United States. There is an expectation that by the end of the year, students will be able to label all 50 states as well as various bodies of water and other physical features. A simple internet search will lead you to many different sites to help your child be successful in this endeavor. Thank you for your support.

**\*\* I am an advocate for, and strongly encourage, parent involvement and interaction. I welcome phone calls (836-3600 ext. 4789) and emails (cgoodwin@mcgrawschools.org) at all times and I will do my best to get back to you as soon as possible. Parent/Teacher communication is essential to the success of the student and I am committed to helping each student reach their maximum potential this year! \*\***