

# Washington Academy - 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Gifted American History

Mrs. Deborah L. Johns

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## Class Expectations

All students are expected to come to class with a willingness to communicate and participate in a positive way with their teacher and classmates.

**Course Overview** – 7<sup>th</sup> Grade American History students will begin their study this year with a comprehensive study of the United States Constitution. Opportunities to apply their understanding of six basic Constitutional principles, popular sovereignty, limited government, separation of powers, checks and balances, judicial review, and federalism will be plentiful all year.. They will learn how our new nation struggled for global identity and domestic stability. They will learn of conflicts within these struggles, outcomes, and consequences of decisions made. Our study of change in America will include learning about periods of social reform. Students will see how expansion led to conflict as westward movement included decisions made about the institution of slavery. The political and social cause and effect of the Civil War in America will be explored. Students will understand how changes in America during the later part of the 19<sup>th</sup> Century led to the Progressive Era. Tools for understanding include: drawing comparisons and identifying contrasts, evaluation, constructive argument, and analysis,

## Resources and Supplies

Textbook – Pearson Prentice Hall – United States History 2008 ISBN 0-13-202761-5

Upfront News Magazines – provided by school and kept at school.

News Spiral – Students will take news notes in spiral and reference their notes throughout the year.

Spiral will be kept in file in classroom but may be taken home for study.

Reading Spiral- Reading Spirals will also be kept in the room and be used for in-class assessment of reading assignments.

Portfolio – All Social Studies notes and papers will be kept in portfolio which will be kept at school but may be brought home for parents to see at any time. There will be quarterly portfolio assessments

Internet access is essential for several projects this year. Classroom or Library computers may be used before or after school hours with prior arrangement.

Additional primary and secondary resources will be provided as needed.

Students will be issued a textbook at the beginning of the year. Textbooks will be left at home as we will have a classroom set. There will be copies of Nystrom Desk Atlas for students to check out as needed for at-home study if they have no access to an atlas or internet.

## Homework Policy

Homework Grades will be 20% of student's grade – No late daily work accepted for a grade. Students will be given one quarterly "pass" on a missing homework assignment but are responsible for all material presented. Homework assignments will either introduce concepts to be studied through research or reading assignments, reinforce prior learning, or prepare students for review or assessment. All written homework assignments will be graded

**Projects** will be presented with clear requirements, timelines and deadlines. Projects will be identified as such and will be accepted one day late for 20% reduction in grade, 2 days for 40% reduction in grade and not be accepted beyond two days late

## Grading Policy

Grades will be assessed based on School District 205 grading scale.

All students will be made aware of their current grade on a regular basis.