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**8th Grade U.S. History Syllabus**

*2019-2020 School Year*

Welcome to 8th Grade U.S. History with Mr. Machesky! The year ahead of us will be filled with exciting readings and activities, and I anticipate that we will both work hard and have fun. In order for the semester to be as productive as it can be, we will work in an environment of mutual respect and understanding. As 8th graders now, you are no longer the “new kids on the block:. The following classroom rules will help us to achieve this goal:

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| **Classroom Expectations:*** Respect every member of the class by raising your hand and paying attention when someone is speaking. Please listen quietly to all school announcements.
* Come to class on time and be in your assigned seat when the bell rings. I expect that you will be punctual, prepared, and respectful of yourselves and others.
* Stay in your seat until you are dismissed by the teacher.
* Being prepared means having all of your materials every single day. This means your binder, textbook, homework, and writing utensil will be with you at all times.
* I expect that we will have dynamic class discussions, but this can only happen if you listen and analyze what others say. Please use appropriate language both in class and in your writing.
* Keep the area around you clean. If using classroom supplies, please make sure you return those materials to their proper place when you’re finished.
* Do your own work. Cheating, no matter what the excuse, is an automatic zero.
* We will strictly adhere to the UCS policy regarding cell phones. Cell phones, at all times, are to be turned off and out of sight unless we are using them in class.
* Always give 100% and do your personal best!
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**Textbook: “History Alive!: The United States Through Industrialism**

**Themes of History 8: 1st Semester:**

**The Road to Revolution**

**Creating New Governments and a New Constitution**

**Challenge to a New Nation**

**America’s Place in the World/ Regional & Economic Growth**

**Nationalism and Jacksonian Democracy**

**Themes of History 8: 2nd Semester :**

**Reform Movements**

**Coming of the Civil War & The Civil War**

**Reconstruction**

**America in the Last Half of the 19th Century**

**ATTENDANCE:**

Assisting you in establishing lifelong habits of reliability and promptness is one of the instructional objectives of this course. Therefore, I expect you to be in class and in your seat ready to work when the bell rings. Understand that I will look at your attendance as an aspect of your learning responsibility. It is YOUR responsibility to make up late work and get notes that you have missed.

**HOMEWORK EXPECTATIONS AND PROCEDURES:**. Strive to budget your time and your work load. In case of an absence, you will be given an amount of time equal to the absence to make up your work. Projects, tests, quizzes, and essays that have been assigned with ample notification are due on the assigned due date, regardless of absences prior to that due date. **Late work will be accepted up to three days after the due date with significant point reductions.**

**BATHROOM AND LOCKERS:**

Since we will no longer be using the agendas, we need to address bathroom use and going back to lockers for class items that were forgotten. **Every marking period, you will have 3 opportunities to use the bathroom and/or go to the bathroom during the class period.** Once those 3 opportunities are used up, you must wait to the next marking period. I will have bathroom/hallway pass for the class to use.

**CRITERIA USED TO DETERMINE GRADES:**

The criteria used to determine grades will vary with each assignment. Most often a rubric will accompany larger assignments. Refer to the non-negotiables listed below as a guideline for daily homework. Please understand that final grades will be based on the quality of the end product. We will be using the Utica Community Schools grading scale to determine quarter and semester grades. Overall student grades will be based on a weighted system that you can view below.

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| **UCS Grading Scale**100 – 94% - A 82-80% - B- 69-67% - D+93-90% - A- 79-77% - C+ 66-63% - D89-87% - B+ 76-73% - C 62-60% - D-86-83% - B 72-70% - C- 59 – 0% - F**Grades will be weighted as follows:****Homework: 20% Projects: 15%****Tests: 40% In Class Work: 10%****Quizzes: 15%** | **Homework Non-Negotiables*** All sentences must be complete.
* Restate all questions in answers.
* Formal essays must be typed, using 12 point font and 1-inch margins.
* Paragraphs must include at least 5-7 sentences.
* Your name MUST be on your paper in order to receive full credit.
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**MATERIALS:**

By Friday, September 6th, please bring with you a binder with dividers labeled with the following four sections:

* **Homework**
* **Vocabulary**
* **Writing**
* **Tests/Quizzes**

This binder, containing all of your assigned work, will be graded during each marking period. Therefore, DO NOT discard any of the assignments or handouts from class unless you instructed to do so.

In addition to coming to class each day with a binder, paper supply, writing utensil, and assignments, I would also suggest highlighters and a flash drive. It’s a wise idea to invest in a flash drive at the start of your high school career so that you don’t have to rely on saving important files to the school computers.

**HELP OUTSIDE THE CLASSROOM**

I have also set up a **WEEBLY** website for this class. You can visit <http://macheskyenglishfall.weebly.com> for class assignments, classroom calendar, class syllabus, and helpful links.

**Extra help is always available! Please let me know if I can assist you in any way!**

September 2019

Dear 8th Grade Parents and Guardians,

Thank you for taking the time to read the syallbus and classroom rules for your child’s 8th grade U.S. History class. I hope that everyone has enjoyed a relaxing summer and is ready for new challenges this year!

I am very excited to be your child’s History teacher. My primary goals include fostering a love of U.S. History and providing strategic reading and writing instruction in an environment where students feel comfortable and confident working through increasingly challenging material.

My experience has taught me that you, the parents and guardians, have a tremendous impact on the success of your children in school as well as their attitude toward learning. I want you to know that if you ever have concerns, questions, or simply want to “check in” on your student’s progress, I will be available to you. I can be reached via email at jeffrey.machesky@uticak12.org. This is the best method to reach me, as I am able to check it several times during the day, and am usually able to respond quickly. Otherwise, feel free to contact me at (586)797-3741 anytime during the day, and I’ll be happy to return your call as soon as I can.

Thank you in advance for your support this year!

Sincerely,

Jeff Machesky

History 8 Teacher

Shelby Junior High