**8th Grade Social Studies Syllabus**

Mrs. Thieleman

New Providence Middle School Clydesdales Team

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Welcome to 8th Grade US history, a class where we will explore America’s past and learn how it will continue to affect our present and our future! This course will begin with European colonization of America and end with life in the West post-Civil War.  By the end of this course you will have mastered the content of early US history with special emphasis on critical thinking, chronology, geography, and written analysis and argument.

**Be sure to visit the class webpage at MrsTHistory.weebly.com**

This site will have everything we covered in class including digital copies of all assignments and notes.

**Supplies Needed** (These are the bare essentials needed for this class)

* 1 inch (at least) three ring Binder with pockets (*This must be ONLY for History Class)*
* Year supply of lined paper (at least 300 sheets)
* A pen (black or blue) or a pencil and a highlighter
* Colored pencils (standard box of 12 is fine)

**Class Structure**

This class has many things that factor into a student’s grade:

**The Unit Book**: This is the most important part of this class. It will be put in your binder and will contain all notes and assignments completed in class. This will become the key resource you can use to study for all tests and quizzes. They are always due the day of the unit test.

**Class Discussion**: Nearly everyday students will be posed multiple questions to discuss with their discussion group and the class as we learn new information. A discussion grade will be assigned to students based on teacher observation during group discussion and responses written by the student following their discussion.

**Bell Work and Reflections**: Everyday, students will complete a bell work question at the beginning of class while attendance is being completed. At the end of every class, students will answer a question reflecting on what was learned that day. These will be a combined grade every unit.

**Unit Tests and Projects**: Every unit we cover will have a unit test at the end that will judge students’ competency over all material covered in that unit. Some units (especially those that are very crucial in our scope and sequence) will have a project to reinforce students understanding.

**Class Procedures**

**Turning in Work**: There will be grades given in many different ways. One way will be the Unit Book. This will be turned in the day of the unit test. Other grades may be “quick checked” by Mrs. T meaning the student will have the assignment on their desk and Mrs. T will walk around to check for student’s completion. The final way work will be turned in is into the student’s class period bin. These will be collected and graded for accuracy over time. NEVER PLACE ANY LOOSE PAPERS ON MRS.T’S DESK OR COUNTER, THEY WILL NOT BE GRADED.

**Computers:** With 1:1 technology, students will be using their computers in social studies. Digital assignments and classwork will be given to students. Students will always be given class time to complete any work that requires a computer. There is no expectation that these assignments will be completed outside of the school. However, students are welcome to access the class website and resources if technology is available at home.

**Late Work**: The Clydesdales team policy is that any work turned in late may lose points. This will vary by assignment. The Unit Book, being such a large grade, will be accepted with no late penalty up until the due date of the next unit book. In other words, if a student did not turn in Unit Book 3, they have until the end of Unit 4 to turn in Unit Book 3 for credit. Late Unit Books **must be given directly to Mrs. T**; if a Unit Book is left anywhere else in the classroom, it will not be graded. **Anything that was “quick checked” in class cannot be turned in late as the answers will be gone over in class right after the quick check**.

**Absent Work**: If a student is absent, they will have the same amount of days they were out to complete missed work. The student can check the class calendar to see what work was missed and retrieve that work from the “Absent Work Binder” in class. **IT IS THE STUDENTS RESPONSIBILITY TO GET AND TURN IN ABSENT WORK**. Mrs. T will not ask for work from absent students.

**Behavior:**  Mrs. Thieleman expects students to be respectful, responsible and engaged in class, as is expected at New Providence Middle School. If a student fails to meet these requirements and is disruptive, disrespectful or in any way distracting to the learning environment, discipline referrals will be submitted to school administration. Excessive behavior issues may result in a student being removed from the classroom environment for an extended period of time.

By signing below, the student and parent/guardian recognize that they understand the expectations and structure of the class. The syllabus should be kept and referenced by parents/guardians and students if any issue arises. If the syllabus does not answer a question, the parent/guardian is encouraged to contact Mrs. Thieleman by email or phone.

I, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ understand the expectations of Mrs. Thieleman’s class and will do my best to meet the expectations both academically and behaviorally with an understanding that failure to do so may result in a poor grade or discipline referrals.

Student Signature: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Signature: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_