***WHEATLAND MIDDLE SCHOOL***

***SCHOOL DISTRICT OF LANCASTER***

***COURSE SYLLABUS: 8TH GRADE HONORS SOCIAL STUDIES 2016-2017***

**COURSE TITLE*:*** *United States History: 1824-1920*

**TEACHER**: Mr. Shultz

**CONTACT INFORMATION**:

* Room 106: I am available before and after school most days and by appointment.
* Phone: 291-6285
* Email: [jdshultz@lancaster.k12.pa.us](mailto:jdshultz@lancaster.k12.pa.us)
* Website: mrshultz.weebly.com

**COURSE DESCRIPTION**

Understanding American history will help us make sense of events that are unfolding before us on a daily basis. In this course, we will examine and analyze American history from the controversial presidency of Andrew Jackson to the dawn of World War I. In addition, you will also gain a firm understanding of skills that are necessary in life and in studying all aspects of history. The Honors Social Studies course has been designed to provide challenges for students that include, but are not limited to:

* More independent and higher-level reading, especially outside of class time;
* Broader exposure to complex text using both primary and secondary sources, with more analysis and in-depth focus on content;
* Active research and writing supported by evidence, with use of more advanced research and writing skills; and
* Reflection and synthesis of information connecting history and current events.

Students are expected to exhibit self-motivation and independent thinking, as well as a commitment of time and effort to task completion.

**NATIONAL HISTORY DAY PROJECT**

All students will be required to complete a National History Day (NHD) research paper. Designated class periods throughout the first half of the school year will be used to work on and refine the paper, however most of the work will be done outside of the Social Studies classroom. Completed topic selection, research, and drafts will be collected at intervals to monitor student progress. Students will be receiving a NHD syllabus in the near future.

**LEARNING LANCASTER**

Each marking period, students will be given an assignment where they will have to go into Lancaster and find historical monuments, houses, locations,etc…This will be a graded assignment but the real purpose is to get the students more familiar with their home city and its history. Students are encouraged to work with other students, family members, or friends. The Learning Lancaster assignment will be posted on the class website, mrshultz.weebly.com

**TEXTBOOK/MATERIALS**:

* *United States History: Beginnings to 1914—*Holt-McDougal
* Additional materials (such as primary sources, secondary sources, maps, and current events articles) will be introduced and used frequently throughout each unit.

**REQUIRED MATERIALS**:

All students are required to bring the following items to class **every day**:

* Notebook or folder to organize papers you receive in class
* Spiral notebook to take notes and complete homework assignments
* A working pen or pencil
* Agenda book for writing assignments

**BEHAVIOR EXPECTATIONS**:

In addition to the SDOL and Wheatland guidelines, students are expected to follow the classroom guidelines, which are:

* Always take responsibility for your actions
* Pay Attention
* Respect everyone and everything
* Open your mind to new experiences
* Never be late

***The consequences for not following the rules will be determined by the teacher on a case-by-case basis.***

**HONORS CODE/PLAGIARISM POLICY:** The Honors code under which all students will be held to the highest standards of truth and honesty will be in effect for all work at all times. Plagiarism, in essence, is defined as the lack of attribution of material from any source (internet, film book, magazine, newspaper, television, song, art of all sorts) for any or all words, images, graphics, unique and original ideas, and artistic expressions. Any and all forms of plagiarism will result in no credit for the assignment. All work should contain a MLA Works Cited Section or attribution.

***Students are expected to do their own work. All assignments given to you are for your personal growth. Please do not take shortcuts by trying to copy or plagiarize any work.***

**GRADING POLICY**:

Students will be assessed on the following:

* **Quizzes (15%) and Tests (30%)**
  + - Tests will usually be given after each unit
    - You will be given quizzes, usually announced, on the following:
      * Materials covered within the unit
      * Vocabulary
      * Current Events
      * Geography
* **Projects and Presentations (25%)**
  + - Projects and presentations will vary in size and shape and should be expected in each unit. Some will be done at home and some will be done in the classroom.
* **In-Class Assignments and Participation (20%)**
  + - I expect all students to keep an organized folder and notebook which you will bring to class every day. These will be graded, but more importantly they will help you understand the material better.
    - You will receive worksheets, maps, readings, etc…in class which must be completed in the time given and kept in your folder.
    - If a student is absent, they are responsible for the missed work. There will be a folder on my desk which has any materials given out on the day the student was absent.
    - NEVER GET RID OF ANYTHING AWAY UNLESS I TELL YOU TO!
* **Homework (10%)**
  + - It is expected that all students turn in homework on the day that it is due. If an assignment is turned in one day late, the student can receive half credit for the assignment. Homework more than one day late will not receive credit, but is still expected to be completed.
    - In the case of an excused absence, late homework will be accepted for full value but it is necessary that the student see me before or after school to answer any questions about the missed work.

**EXTRA CREDIT POLICY**:

1. **Student-requested extra credit:** If a student has *completed all of their assignments* and would still like to improve their grade, they may come to me to request extra credit work. The student will have to come to me with an idea for a topic (it does not have to be what we are currently studying, but it does have to be social studies/history related). This assignment will involve a presentation to the entire class in a format agreed upon by the teacher and the student.
2. **Teacher-offered extra credit:** Throughout the year, I will offer extra credit points in various ways for all students.

***I expect the best work and behavior from each of my students every day!***

**COURSE OUTLINE (timeline subject to change)**:

***FIRST MARKING PERIOD***

**Chapter 6: Citizenship and the Constitution**

* + In this chapter you will learn about the U.S. Constitution, the Bill of Rights, and what it means to be an American citizen. You will also be able to read the full text of the United States Constitution.

**Chapter 10: The Age of Jackson**

* + In this chapter you will learn about President Andrew Jackson and why historians refer to his time in office as the Age of Jackson

**Chapter 11: Expanding West**

* + In this chapter you will learn about how the United States expanded west

***SECOND MARKING PERIOD***

**Chapter 12: The North**

* + In this chapter you will read about the changes that occurred in the lives of Americans in the North as the result of rapid industrialization. You will also learn about some of the new inventions of this period.

**Chapter 13: The South**

* + In this chapter you will learn how the South developed an agricultural economy and how that economy was dependent on the labor of enslaved people. You will also read about the role of slavery in Southern society.

**Chapter 14: New Movements in America**

* + In this chapter you will read about changes in American society and the goals of social reformers. You will also learn about the leaders of social reform movements.

**Chapter 15: A Divided Nation**

* + In this chapter you will learn about how the debate over slavery increasingly divided Americans during the mid-1800s. You will also read about the major events that preceded the Civil War.

***THIRD MARKING PERIOD***

**Chapter 16: The Civil War**

* + In this chapter you will learn how the resources of the North enabled it to defeat the South in the Civil War.

**Chapter 17: Reconstruction**

* + In this chapter you will learn about the challenges that faced the nation after the Civil War and the attempts to meet those challenges.

**Chapter 18: Americans Move West**

* + In this chapter you will read about the effects of westward expansion in the United States. You will also learn about how Native Americans resisted these changes.

***FOURTH MARKING PERIOD***

**Chapter 19: The Industrial Age**

* + In this chapter you will learn about the new inventions of the 1800s. You will also read about how life and business changed because of these inventions.

**Chapter 20: Immigrants and Urban Life**

* + In this chapter you will learn about immigration and its effects on U.S. cities. You will also read about some of the challenges faced by these cities.

**Chapter 21: The Progressive Spirit of Reform**

* + In this chapter you will learn about the reform movements that swept across the United States in the late 1800s and early 1900s.

**Chapter 22: America as a World Power**

* + In this chapter you will learn about how the United States became a global power in the late 1800s and early 1900s.

**WHEATLAND MIDDLE SCHOOL**

**8TH GRADE SOCIAL STUDIES CONTRACT**

Dear Parents and Guardians;

Welcome back to a new school year! Your child has received and reviewed the Social Studies course syllabus in class. They are aware of the requirements, expectations, and grading policies for the 2016-2017 school year. I encourage you to help your son/daughter organize study time in support of classroom assignments. Please notify me throughout the school year of any concerns regarding the class and/or your child’s progress.

I am anticipating an exciting year as we prepare your child for success in academics, extra-curricular activities, and the skill they will need for high school. ***Please fill out and sign the bottom of this form, detach it, and have your child return it to me.***  Thank you.

Sincerely,

Mr. Shultz

8th Grade Social Studies

Wheatland Middle School

717-291-6285

[jdshultz@lancaster.k12.pa.us](mailto:jdshultz@lancaster.k12.pa.us)

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Student Name (Please print) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Parent Name (Please print) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Best contact information (Phone, e-mail, or both: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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*I have read and understand the description of the 8th grade Social Studies program, syllabus, behavioral expectations, and grading policy. I support the program and will notify the teacher immediately of any concerns regarding the class and/or my child’s progress.*

*LEARING LANCASTER LESSONS: Please check the appropriate box for your child’s active participation in the Learning Lancaster Lessons.*

*\_\_\_\_\_ I allow my child to participate in the Learning Lancaster Lessons*

*\_\_\_\_\_ My child will not participate in the Learning Lancaster Lessons and will require a different assignment.*

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

Parent Signature: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_