***WHEATLAND MIDDLE SCHOOL***

***SCHOOL DISTRICT OF LANCASTER***

***COURSE SYLLABUS: 8TH GRADE 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)

**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.

**TEXTBOOK/MATERIALS**:

* *United States History: Beginnings to 1914—*Holt-McDougal
  + A class set of these textbooks are available to students.
  + Students will receive log-in and password information to access an on-line version of the textbook at home. If a student does not have internet access at home, it is their responsibility to inform me of this situation and a textbook can then be kept at home for the remainder of the year.
* *United States History: Beginnings to 1914* (workbook)—Holt-McDougal
  + Students will receive their own copy for the entirety of the year. The students will keep the workbooks in the classroom and take them home to complete assignments.
* 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
* It is also recommended that students bring a flash drive for any computer projects when it is necessary to save work.

**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 without a pass

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

**PLAGIARISM POLICY**:

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. Plagiarism is defined as the lack of attribution 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 expression. Plagiarism is also copying work and ideas from another student, with or without that student’s knowledge. Students who allow other students to copy their work or do work for others will also be charged with plagiarism. Any and all form of plagiarism will result in no credit for the assignment.

**GRADING POLICY**:

Students will be assessed on the following:

* **Quizzes (15%) and Tests (30%)**
  + - Tests will usually be given after each chapter.
    - You will be given quizzes, usually announced, on the following:
      * Sections within each chapter
      * Vocabulary
      * Current Events
      * Geography
* **In-Class Assignments (15%)**
  + - 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.
    - We will be completing Collins Writing assignments on an almost daily basis which all students are required to complete.
    - In case of an excused absence, a student will need to see me before or after school to make up missing work.
    - NEVER THROW 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 be accepted.
    - 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.
* **Projects (20%)**
  + - Projects will vary in size and shape. Some will be done at home and some will be done in the classroom.
* **Citizenship (10%)**
  + - You will lose points from your grade for not meeting the behavioral expectations in class and/or not bringing the required materials to class.

**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.

**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.

***FOURTH MARKING PERIOD***

**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.

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**SCHOOL DISTRICT OF LANCASTER**

**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.*

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

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