

# 7<sup>TH</sup> GRADE HISTORY CURRICULUM – U.S. HISTORY

## Mr. Sengstock – Room 206

Textbook: *The American Nation*. Upper Saddle River: Prentice Hall

This year, the seventh grade is exploring the roots of our country, and how these roots grew, changed, and helped shape the present society we live in.

As the year unfolds, our studies focus on exploration into the New World, and how the New World was carved up and governed by European powers. As time progresses, we will analyze the diverse English colonies that grew along the eastern seaboard of North America, the origins of American slavery, religion in colonial America, the development and effects of mercantilism, the impact of European wars on America, the history-defining revolution that resulted in U.S. independence, and the contents of the Declaration of Independence.

As a prelude to the U.S. Constitution test in eighth grade, we will become familiar with the branches and responsibilities of our federal government, along with the content of the Bill of Rights. The school year will conclude with an evaluation of the early years of the U.S. republic, and the obstacles confronted by our young nation. The U.S. art of compromise, the desire to expand our borders, and the evolution of democracy will serve as recurring themes. Our studies should take us through the Age of Jefferson.

When the school year ends, I will hope to have increased our understanding and appreciation for the U.S. and the Constitution we live under. In an age of increase political apathy, I intend to demonstrate that democracy works, and that we are all valuable participants in this free republic. Through our studies, students will be reminded that our freedoms should not be taken for granted, and that we are responsible for continuing and increasing our country's greatness.

Textbook readings, corresponding questions, and occasional map activities are the main sources of homework in U.S. history, assigned to assess student comprehension of the content and as preparation for discussion the following day.

Teacher-created tests are administered at the completion of each unit, and generally include short answer questions, fill in the blank questions, essay questions, multiple choice questions, and matching questions. All students are invited to come to morning study sessions that are scheduled on test days.

As an extension of the U.S. history curriculum, all of my classes and I attempt to keep up with current events and issues that are shaping our nation and world. Our classes have full period discussions every other week or so. This year, we will be paying close attention to the presidential primary elections and caucuses. To enhance discussion, I ask that students bring in a national or world news article to share with the class.

