P.S. DuPont Middle School

Course Syllabus

Name of Course: US History Department/Team: Social Studies Gifted and Talented

Grade: 8 School Year: 2018-2019

Teacher’s Name: Mr. Prokop

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The course takes a chronological approach to the history of this nation to deliver the state standards in History, Geography, Civics, and Economics. Classes are assigned a textbook, but the bulk of the information will come from a combination of contemporary readings and primary sources. In addition, students will be asked to read several short stories throughout the year in conjunction with the content presented in class. Class simulations give students a hands-on experience of the topic. This we will cover more extensively at back to school night in September.

**United States History Course topics:**

PREHISTORIC NORTH AMERICA  
FEUDAL EUROPE  
THE AGE OF EXPLORATION  
TUDOR ENGLAND AND THE PROTESTANT REFORMATION  
STUART ENGLAND AND EARLY ATTEMPTS AT COLONIZATION    
THE COLONIZATION OF NORTH AMERICA   
THE DUEL FOR NORTH AMERICA  
THE CAUSES OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION  
THE REVOLUTIONARY WAR   
THE MAKING OF A NEW NATION  
THE PRESIDENCY OF GEORGE WASHINGTON AND JOHN ADAMS  
JEFFERSON'S PRESIDENCY AND THE WAR OF 1812  
JAMES MONROE AND JOHN QUINCY ADAMS   
JACKSONIAN DEMOCRACY AND SECTIONALISM   
THE INDUSTRIAL REVOLUTION AND WESTWARD EXPANSION  
ORIGINS OF THE CIVIL WAR

Unit topics are created with respect to the *Delaware Recommended Curriculum for Social Studies.*

The format for unit and lesson design is in line with the *Parallel Curriculum for Gifted Education*, a district initiative for our gifted program.

Disclaimer: The nature of gifted education is to provide a combination of acceleration and deep, meaningful extensions into course content to achieve high levels of motivation while unlocking a student’s curiosity. To that end, topics may be added or subtracted to fit time constraints or to respond to the needs of gifted students with appropriate challenges.

RESOURCES

A helpful adjunct to this course is the website **www.mrprokop.com**

Students and parents can refer to this site for:

* Following classroom deadlines
* Completing evening or long term assignments
* Viewing power points or videos
* Referencing formal class notes
* Reviewing all classroom policies.

Using the website is helpful for students who miss class or need to review what was done that day. Students will be given log-in and pass code information for the site. When possible, resources will be placed on the site so students may download them at home.

Learning resources utilized during this year will include:

* Primary documents
* Biographies
* Maps
* Short Stories
* Simulations

Major activities in daily classroom instruction will consist of:

* Power point presentations
* Class discussion
* Simulations and role playing

Grading in the class reflects new district protocols of 70% summative vs 30% formative grading. The grade will be determined by the following components:

a. summative assessment of the portfolio project (20%)

b. mean average of all student formative quizzes (30%)

c. mean average of all summative unit examinations (50%)