**SYLLABUS**

**Grade 8**

**American History II**

**Mrs. Goodwin**

**Course Description:**

* This course will focus on American History from the Civil War to the present. Specifically we will examine the causes and effects of the Civil War, as well as our Nation’s period of Reconstruction. We will examine the ages of industry and growth as well as the Progressive Era. We will be looking at U.S. Expansionism around the turn of the century. We are going to spend time studying the changes in America during the 20th century including the Roaring 20’s, the Great Depression, America’s role in the World Wars and other military conflicts. We will spend a good amount of time discussing the Civil Rights movement and Vietnam era. We will examine the roles of the most recent Presidents in domestic and international affairs and conclude by looking at the current position of the United States today. The NY State Common Core Framework for Social Studies K-8 can be found here:
* **https://www.engageny.org/resource/new-york-state-k-12-social-studies-framework**

**Required Texts:**

* Students will be given copies of the following texts for the school year. They are responsible for the care of each book and will be held accountable for missing or damaged books.
* America: History of our Nation. Pearson, Prentice Hall. Boston, MA. 2007.
* Beals, Melba Patillo. Warriors Don’t Cry. Washington Square Press. New York, NY. 1994.
* Haddix, Margaret Peterson. Uprising. Simon & Schuster. New York, NY. 2007.

Supply List

* For this course, students will need a 1.5 inch binder with dividers, college ruled loose leaf paper, and writing utensils

**Grading Policy:**

* Participation 20%
  + Most of the work that we do in this course will be in class. Therefore, participation and attendance are ESSENTIAL for academic success. Twice per marking period I will assign a participation grade to each student based on their effort, participation, attendance and behavior.
* In-Class Assignments 25%
  + The majority of the assignments will complete in this course will be class work, either cooperatively or individually, therefore this part of the student’s grade is heavily weighted.
* Homework 20%
  + Homework will be assigned periodically throughout the year. Any homework assignments given will be meaningful and relevant. Homework in this course is by no means “busy work” and should be taken seriously.
* Literature Activities 10%
  + This year we will be reading a historical memoir that coincides with our curriculum. We will have periodic quizzes as well as activities and assessments based on our reading.
* Tests and Quizzes 25%
  + Tests and quizzes are a good tool for assessing student learning. We will have periodic quizzes, both announced and unannounced on topics that we cover. All tests will be announced and we will spend anywhere from 1-3 days in class reviewing for exams. I will provide review sheets for exams as well.

**Engrade.com**

* I use an online grading system called Engrade. You can use this service to access your child’s grades from the internet at any time. You can also track your child’s progress and see if they have any missing work. You will need to go to engrade.com and select “create a free account.” You will need to input your child’s access number (which you can email me for) and then create a username and password. It's very simple. I do my best to post grades in a timely manner.

**\*\* I am an advocate for, and strongly encourage, parent involvement and interaction. I welcome phone calls (836-3600 ext. 4789) and emails (cgoodwin@mcgrawschools.org) at all times and I will do my best to get back to you as soon as possible. In addition, I will send out a weekly newsletter that details what we are studying and what is coming up. Parent/Teacher communication is essential to the success of the student and I am committed to helping each student reach their maximum potential this year! \*\***

**PARENTS: PLEASE READ, SIGN AND RETURN THIS SYLLABUS TO ME AS SOON AS POSSIBLE!**

**Signature\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Email Address\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**