

8th Grade Humanities
Mr. Brad Davis

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Course Description:

This course is a combination of Language Arts and Social Studies. The course will cover American history from colonization through reconstruction (early 1600's-1900). Throughout the course language arts themes of reading, writing, and language development will be implemented.

Themes and events covered include:

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|---|--|
| 1. The French and Indian War | 6. The War of 1812 |
| 2. The American Revolution | 7. Manifest Destiny/Westward Expansion |
| 3. The Constitution | 8. The Civil War/ War Between the States |
| 4. Thomas Jefferson | 9. Reconstruction |
| 5. The Corps of Discovery (Lewis and Clark) | 10. Immigration/ Industrialization |

Required Materials:

1. Textbook (brought DAILY): The American Journey
2. Novel (If reading in class)
3. 2 Spiral Notebooks
4. A sharpened PENCIL, and an eraser

Classroom Expectations:

In addition to the High 5 expectations, there are two more expectations in Mr. Davis' classroom.

1. **Try your BEST**
2. **Help others do their BEST**

Grading:

The grading in the class will be scored on both proficiency and behavioral achievements. Meaning I will evaluate students based on their academic assignments such as test, quizzes, and essays. As well as reading logs, weekly warm ups, and in class worksheets. Student's grades will be based on their ability to demonstrate their knowledge through assessment.

You will see two grades on the report card; the overall will be both academic and behavioral grades, while the second will be strictly academic. The academic grade lets you know if your child is meeting the 8th grade state standards for language arts and social studies.

Assessments will be varied and include:

Projects (Individual/Group)
Essays
Tests (Varied Formats)
Speeches

Class Policy:

1. Students can turn in work at any time leading up to a grading period. Once the grading period has passed I will no longer accept late work.
2. If you are absent for a test, expect to take it on the day you return.

3. No backpacks in the classroom.
4. Students will take an Unprepared to leave the classroom for personal reasons.

Student Responsibilities:

1. Complete all assignments on time.
2. Keep up your notebook
3. Participate in all activities

To maximize student learning, there needs to be a partnership between teachers, students, and parents. Parents can help their son/daughter by providing support in the following areas.

1. **Encourage your student to seek help regularly.** Parents usually know when their son/daughter is having difficulty with the subject matter. Please take the opportunity to encourage your student to get extra help before or after school.
2. **Check the school website.** As assignments are graded you can access them on our class calendar.
3. **Encourage your student to read and write on a regular basis outside the classroom.** We will set aside a portion of each class to either free read or write and I would encourage students to continue reading and writing as often as possible. The only way to get better at these skills is to practice them often.

This school year is going to be a lot of fun Humanities! I guarantee that your student will enjoy this class and make large gains in their abilities if they give their best effort and follow classroom expectations. If you have any questions or concerns at any point during the school year feel free to contact me. I believe strong communication between teacher, student, and parents is a vital part of this class.

I have read and understood the classroom procedures and expectations.

Student name (please print): _____

Student signature: _____ Date: _____

Parent/Guardian name (please print): _____

Parent/Guardian signature: _____ Date: _____

Parent/Guardian phone number (daytime): _____

Parent/Guardian phone number (evening): _____

Parent/Guardian email: _____

Please take time to fill this survey out. This survey will help me communicate better with you during the year.

1) The two important things that teachers should communicate with parents are:

1.

2.

2) Please rank these modes of communication 1 - 8 (1=most preferred method, 8= least preferred method). Please do not use a number twice.

_____ Phone call at home

_____ Phone call at work

_____ Email

_____ Note in Planner

_____ US mail

_____ Newsletter

_____ Class website

_____ Other: _____

3) When teachers communicate with me about my child, I wish they would...

4) Communication between home and school could be improved by ...