# 8th Grade American History
# Course Syllabus

## COURSE INFORMATION

Teacher -  Mrs. Ginnie Holloway
Email -    vholloway@rochester.k12.mi.us

Conference Time – 7:40 – 8:35 a.m.

Website -  http://gholloway.weebly.com/  *(Updated regularly)*

## COURSE DESCRIPTION

Students will be introduced to the history of the United States from Colonial times through Reconstruction.  The course is divided chronologically into eras.  Students learn to place major events on a timeline and to analyze the causes and effects of historical events.  Using primary and secondary sources, they explore time and place in nineteenth century America.  They will compare conflicting accounts of the past and express informed judgments about significant events that shaped the nation.  Students will deepen their understanding of major geographical themes and basic economic concepts while building an understanding of American government.

A variety of instructional strategies and methodologies will be used to create a dynamic learning environment.  Visual Thinking Routines, 21st Century Learning, and Whole Brain Teaching are classroom concepts that will be used to enhance the curriculum.

## TOPICS OF STUDY

- Exploration
- Colonial Period
- Revolutionary Ideas
- Civics and Citizenship
- A New Nation
- Industrial Revolution
- Westward Expansion
- Reform Movements
- Civil War & Reconstruction

**CLASSROOM EXPECTATIONS**
- Come prepared to learn & always try your best
- Treat everyone with respect, including yourself
- Make responsible choices
- Ask if you need help

**MATERIALS NEEDED FOR THE CLASSROOM**

Everyday students are expected to come to class prepared to learn.  They will need to bring their calendar or planner, Social Studies folder, paper and pencils/pens.

Below is a suggested list of supplies

- Composition notebook (no spirals)
- Sharpened pencils
- Black or blue pens
- A folder for social studies only

*Please select a method that works for YOUR student.  Some students prefer three-ringed binders and others accordion style folders.  I just ask that you have one folder for social studies.  Keep it organized.*

Good idea to have

- Color pencils or crayons
- Loose-leaf paper
- Packet of sticky notes
- Highlighters
- Extra fine-tip Sharpie – black
- Glue

Classroom donations are greatly appreciated!
- Kleenex
- Clorox Wipes
- Sticky Notes (Used for class interactions and thinking routines.)

**GRADING**

Grading is based on class participation, assignments, assessment, and projects. Final grades will be calculated by totaling the number of points received and dividing by the amount of points possible.

Grades will be updated and available on myRCS.

**DNC -** If an assignment (homework) is not completed it will be entered into the gradebook as a **DNC** (*Did Not Complete*). This will calculate within the gradebook as a 50%, which is still a grade letter E. However, it will not unfairly penalize a student as how a 0% would.

**NHI -** Projects and some special assignments will receive a **NHI** (*Not Handed In*) until this assignment is handed in. This will calculate as a 0% until the student turns in that project or special assignment.

**Late Assignments**
Late work can be turned in for partial credit. Please see me with questions or concerns.

**Absent Work**
When absent it is your responsibility to find out what you missed. You are still responsible for information discussed and work completed during your absence.

- Check the webpage - Links, worksheets, etc. are usually posted for easy access
- Use Remind 101 - You will receive a text message at the end of the school day
- Ask a friend - Call or e-mail a friend
- Talk to Mrs. Holloway - E-mail me or see me before or after class

** Please see Mrs. Holloway if you have questions or concerns about your absence.

**Extra Credit**
Throughout the year opportunities will be given to earn extra credit. It is your responsibility as a student to look and listen for these opportunities and take advantage of them as they become available.