

Mill Creek Middle School  
8th Grade American History (1754-1898)  
Mrs. Amy Grant  
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Conference Period: 8:15 - 9:25 am

### **Course Description:**

Eighth grade social studies is a year-long adventure discovering American history from 1754 to 1898, with a strong focus on 1775 to 1877. Over the course of the year students will use a variety of media and technology to construct meaning as they gather and read information, make inquiries, and analyze and evaluate acquired data.

Throughout each unit of study, students will participate in simulations, lectures, problem-solving group work, text-related activities and structured discussion. Projects will be assigned to help students understand and learn the ideas and concepts taught during each unit. Activities are designed so that connections can be made between what is being taught, the theme of the unit, and present-day events.

### **Course Topics to be Covered:**

- Revolution and the New Nation (including both causes and consequences of the American Revolution)
- Creating New Government(s) (including an in-depth look at the Constitution)
- Challenges to an Emerging Nation (covering Washington through Jackson)
- Regional and Economic Growth (including the development of industry, infrastructure and the west)
- Antebellum Reform Movements
- The Coming of the Civil War (instigating factors throughout the 1800s)
- The Civil War (focusing on Lincoln's presidency and why the North won)
- Post-War Reconstruction
- America in the Last Half of the 19th Century (particularly as it compares to the U.S. in 1800)
- Washington D.C. (assignments related to our nation's capital and the 8th grade trip)

### **Materials Required:**

- dedicated binder space, divided into two sections
- many, many pens and pencils
- lots and lots of looseleaf lined paper

### **Textbooks:**

*The American Nation*, (Prentice Hall)  
*History Alive! The United States* (TCI)  
*History of US* series by Joy Hakim (Oxford University Press)

### **Grading System and Criteria for Evaluation:**

Please refer to the detailed explanation in team policies document.

### **Additional Help Available:**

I am available at lunch to help any students needing extra time or assistance with their work. I am also glad to meet with students at other times by appointment. Students can also choose to voluntarily attend the after school Academy on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays.

### **Guide to Resources / Tools for Student Success:**

GLCE's (Course Objectives) may be found at <http://www.michigan.gov/mde/0,1607,7-140-28753-33232---,00.html>