

Ms. Forst & Ms. Cowhitt's 7th Grade U.S. Studies Course Syllabus 2016 - 2017

Email: sarah.cowhitt@mpls.k12.mn.us
 Phone: 612-668-3240 (ext. 51884)
 Voicemail: (ext. 88248)
 Website: <http://sarahcowhitt.weebly.com>

Email: catherine.forst@mpls.k12.mn.us
 Phone: 612-668-3240 (ext. 51833)
 Voicemail: (ext. 21414)

COURSE GOALS

- We will explore U.S. Studies with an emphasis on the role of economic, religious, political, cultural, geographic, and social forces from 1776 to the present.
- We will develop reading, writing, and research skills.
- We will interpret primary and secondary sources in order to analyze historical events.
- We will participate in frequent formal and informal discussions and debates.
- We will strive to be open-minded, risk-takers, communicators, reflective, caring, balanced, thinkers, knowledgeable, inquirers, and principled while participating in class activities.

COURSE UNITS

UNIT TITLE	STATEMENT OF INQUIRY	TIME OF YEAR
What the Law Says	Government structures struggle to create fair systems of power.	September - October
Expanding American Identity	Power changes occur among groups and individuals as a result of scientific and technical innovation.	October - November
America's Identity Crisis	Relationships between communities and cultures change over time.	November - December
History Day	The behavior of humankind manifest itself in time, place and space.	January - February
American Development	Conflict can cause change in building a fair developed society.	February - March
Americans Coming of Age	Global interactions can lead to conflict and cooperation between countries around the world.	April - May
The United States on a Global Stage	Global interactions influence perspective, just as perspectives influence global interaction.	May - June

TEXTS & MATERIALS

- iPads will be used 2 - 3 days a week and will be kept in our classroom iPad cart
- *History Alive!* textbook
- Students are responsible for bringing their planner, notebook, folder, and writing utensil to class

CLASS POLICIES

- Completion of assignments, homework, and projects is the student's responsibility. Homework will be given one or two days a week.
- Students can redo assignments to earn higher grades. Final projects and tests cannot be redone.
- If a student is absent, it is her/his responsibility to make up the work. Handouts will be made readily available in the classroom. We are always happy to answer any questions.
- We are also willing to adjust assignments in special circumstances such as extended illnesses or absences. The best time to see us is immediately after school.
- Late assignments will be accepted for partial credit but will lose 10% for each school day late, up to 5 days. After 5 days we will still accept late work for 50% credit up until the end of each quarter. There will be no penalty for late weekly assignment sheets.
- Academic Honesty is fundamental to this class. Any forms of academic dishonesty will be dealt with according to school policy.
- Students will receive 1 "Late Homework Coupon" each quarter that can be used to turn in late assignments with no point penalty. However, late homework coupons can only be used for individual assignments. Students cannot use this coupon for final projects, group work, or their History Day Project. Unused late homework coupons can be turned in for extra credit at the end of each quarter if a student did not lose them and does not have any missing work. Students are responsible for this coupon. If they lose them, we do not replace them until the start of the next quarter.

MYP

Summative assessments will be graded based on one the 4 MYP criterion:

- Criterion A: Knowing and Understanding
- Criterion B: Investigating
- Criterion C: Thinking Critically
- Criterion D: Communicating

GRADING SCALE

90 - 100 A
80 - 89 B
70 - 79 C
60 - 69 D
59 & below F