

GRADE 8 HONORS SOCIAL STUDIES

Course Description:

Grade 8 Honors Social Studies will offer increased rigor and interesting opportunities for academic growth for students who have demonstrated high potential and enjoyment of history. Grade 8 Social Studies includes the survey of American History from 1492 to 1877. Grade 8 Honors Social Studies will emphasize the reading and the written analysis of the primary sources that represent the dramatic movements in American History during that era.

These primary sources include, but are not limited to:

- The English Bill of Rights
- The Declaration of Independence
- The Constitution of the United States
- The Bill of Rights
- The Gettysburg Address
- The Emancipation Proclamation
- The Lincoln/Douglas Debates
- Readings from Forging a New Nation, Founding a Nation, Slavery in America, How America Grew, The Civil War.
- The Magna Carta
- The Monroe Doctrine
- The Federalist Papers
- Declaration of Sentiments

As preparation for future advanced high school history courses, students will be taught a specific model of analysis and argumentative writing structure, which corresponds to the strategy taught in honors Language Arts. The CRE structured writing response includes a Claim, Reason, and Evidence. This method is designed to assist in analyzing or constructing the logic of an argument, whether it is spoken or written.

The students in the Honors Social Studies course will have a minimum of two special learning experiences (field trips or events at the school) based on curriculum for language arts/social studies. Students will be asked to complete about five hours per week of study outside of the classroom setting.

Course Materials:

1. Summer Reading (This novel can be borrowed from the public library or purchased by students.)
 - a. *Elizabeth I CEO: Strategic Lessons from the Leader Who Built an Empire* by Alex Alexrod. ISBN 9780735203570, Prentice Hall Press, c. 2002.
2. The current grade 8 Social Studies textbook will be used for this course.
3. Additional readings from primary sources will be used:
 - a. *Forging a New Nation*, ISBN 9780618222094, McDougal Littell, c. 2003.
 - b. *Founding a Nation*, ISBN 9780618003662, McDougal Littell, c. 2000.
 - c. *Slavery in America*, ISBN 9780618048229, McDougal Littell, c. 2001.
 - d. *How America Grew*, ISBN 9780618221967, McDougal Littell, c. 2003.
 - e. *The Civil War*, ISBN 9780618003686, Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, c. 2000.
4. Historical Novel (May be purchased by students OR class set for in-class use).
 - a. *Killer Angels* by Michael Shaara, ISBN 9780345348104, Ballantine, 1987.

