**Grade Eight American History/Individuals & Societies**

Mrs. Rowley-Welsch

Room 3104 - Team 8

Bexley Middle School

michelle.rowley-welsch @bexleyschools.org

**Welcome to American History!** This course is a chronological study of the creation of the United States of America. In order to understand the foundation of this country, we must look at the main elements of its creation. We will be studying the people and events from pre-colonization (1587) through Reconstruction. We will do so through the lenses of all people, including various Native American Nations, European settlers (French, Spanish, English, Dutch, etc.), enslaved Africans, and African American descendants. We will be using traditional text, computer-based programs, we/internet interactive programs, hands-on-history, intra-class dialogue, writing (creative, persuasive, expository) and other activities which will help students fully understand and appreciate the heritage of modern America and all Americans.

The main text used in this class is McDougal Littell’s **American History**. We will also be using supplemental materials, both document and web-based. This book comes with an online book that students will access from home, as well as online activities for students to use for study. This class follows all State of Ohio and International Baccalaureate guidelines for study.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Unit** | **Title** | **Topics** |
| One | *Three Worlds Meet* | Review of Euro, African, and American cultures and history |
| Two | *The English Colonies* | Settlement of 13 colonies, Indigenous peoples, establishment of slavery in America, world war |
| Three | *Creating a New Nation/Revolution* | American Revolution: War and Independence |
| 3b | *The Constitution* | Articles of Confederation, Constitution, Bill of Rights |
| Four | *The Early Republic* | First presidencies, Lewis and Clark Expedition, War of 1812 |
| Five | *A Changing Nation* | Era of Jackson, Trail of Tears, War with Mexico, Social Reforms |
| Six | *A Nation Divided and Rebuilt* | Sectionalism, Slave Laws, Abolitionist Movement, Civil War, Reconstruction |
| All | *Preservation of Historic Sites* | Civil War Trust Battlefield Initiatives: American Revolution, War of 1812, Civil War |

    

**Expectations for class:**

1. Always have a pen and a pencil, as well as lined paper. You may be asked to bring other supplies as needed.
2. All school rules are in effect for this classroom. Be in your assigned seat when the bell rings to avoid accumulating tardies. If you have five or more tardies in a quarter, you will receive a detention.
3. Be respectful of others and the class as a whole. This means raising your hand and waiting to speak. This means not bothering other people’s property (students and teachers). This also means being respectful of other people, their questions/answers, and their backgrounds.
4. If you need to leave during class (bathroom, nurse, locker) ask for permission, sign out, and take the hall pass.
5. You are expected to be on your best behavior. Discipline will be handled in the classroom as needed, and ranges from warnings to time outs, to detentions. If necessary, discipline may be referred to Mr. Caudill.

**Grades and Homework:**

1. Homework is due at the beginning of class unless otherwise noted. Homework that is not done at this time may be considered late work.
2. Homework that is late may be accepted late as long as it is considered relevant to what the class is currently learning. Late work that is accepted may be reduced in value up to 50%, at the teacher’s discretion.
3. “Second Chance Policy” - Tests and Retests. A student who scores lower than an 80% on the original test may be eligible to take an alternate, equivalent retest for a maximum score of 80%. This may not apply to small quizzes or long-term projects. Retests must be arranged with the teacher in advance and may be taken in class or study hall on an assigned day. Students must come to a re-teaching session or otherwise show effort to the teacher before the assigned re-test day.
4. Unless homework is specifically instructed to be “group work” or “done with a partner,” it is expected to be independent work.
5. School and district rules regarding Academic Integrity apply in this classroom. This means cheating, copying, and plagiarism. Violations are considered serious and will be taken to the administration.
6. Always ask questions if you are confused or need help. Don’t wait until it is too late to ask! I will help you!

Online Text: [www.classzone.com](http://www.classzone.com) Students may access this using their own codes and

passwords. This information can be found on my Canvas page.   