

Eighth Grade: United States History - ~1754 to ~1877
Ms. Apple's Social Studies Guide



Welcome to the first part of a two-part course on the history of the United States. The focus this school year will be on the time period between ~1754 and ~1877. Major units include *The Historical Process and the Road to Independence*, *Forging a New Nation*, *Growth of a Nation*, and *A Union in Disunion*. In preparation for this journey, the students will review and strengthen the skills they developed in sixth and seventh grade and expand their knowledge concerning the method and thought process of being a historian.

Class Rules

1. **Be on time.** If you are late, you must have a pass to be admitted to class. If the lateness is "not excused," the consequences are:

- First offense: A warning
- Second offense: Detention during lunch/recess and notification to parent/guardian
- Third offense: Referral to the office



2. **Be prepared.** This includes having all required materials with you everyday. You will not be allowed to go back to your locker for materials. Also, leaving class will be kept to a minimum. Go to the restroom, get a drink of water, and take care of any urgent business before class.

3. **Follow all directions and try to do your best.**

4. **Follow the routine of the class.**

5. **Keep up with all written work, reading assignments, homework, etc.**

- Approximately 1 to 1½ hours of homework will be assigned per week (10-15 minutes per night).
- Homework will be displayed each class and will be discussed in class. It is the **student's responsibility** to copy their homework in their Agenda Book, to obtain and hand in all work, and to make-up any missed assignments.
- Students are required to make up missed work during an excused absence. When absent, call your "study buddy" for missed work. Also, check the "If You Were Absent . . ." bulletin board for your assignments and see me the **first day** you are back in school.
- If you are legally absent due to an activity such as a sectional rehearsal for music, working with Ms. Storr, attending a field trip, etc. you should see me the same day you missed class to discuss what you need to make up, to hand in assignments, and to collect materials you may need to complete your work.
- If you missed a quiz or a test/assessment, you must make it up the **first day** you are back unless you have made different arrangements with the teacher.
- Based on Howard County Public School System policy, students will have the same amount of class days to make up missed work as the amount of days they were **legally absent** from class.
- Based on the Howard County Public School System policy, if the absence is **unexcused** students will not receive credit for the assignments. The student should still complete and turn in the work for comments.
- Remember, it is the student's responsibility to make up the work!
- Study buddies:

1. Name: _____ Phone #: _____

2. Name: _____ Phone #: _____

6. **No eating or drinking in class.** This rule includes gum!

7. **Respect others, respect yourself, and use common sense.**

Materials

1. A 1” or 1½” binder (blue, if possible) with two tabbed dividers and an **add-on** pocket inserted into the binder (side pockets are too thin to hold papers). The binder will be collected and graded periodically, thus it cannot include any work from another class. The directions on how to organize the binder will be given in class. Binder check dates will be announced and posted approximately one week ahead of time. Twenty percent will be deducted for each class day the binder is late.
2. Notebook paper for the binder.
3. Written work may be completed in blue or black ink or #2 pencil. Since ink is inappropriate for maps, all maps must be completed in pencil.
4. A ruler, a red or green or purple pen, colored pencils, and a calculator will be needed periodically.
5. Each student will have his/her own textbook(s). The book(s) will be assigned at the beginning of the year, it is to be covered, and kept at home. Students are required to return their assigned book(s) at the end of the school year.

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GMS Social Studies Department Homework Policy

Homework is counted as part of the student’s overall grade. Homework has many purposes including:

- It provides time for independent work and extra practice
- It reinforces skills
- It prepares the student for the next lesson and for up-coming quizzes/assessments
- It provides time for the student to reflect on what they have learned

Grade Level Expectations

- Assignments are due when the teacher has collected the assignment. Assignments submitted after the teacher has collected the work, even on the same class day, are considered late.
- Unless otherwise instructed, homework is to be complete at home, not during normal school hours.
- Unless otherwise instructed, homework is to be completed independently – students may not share their work with each other nor complete the assignment together.

6th grade: Late assignments will be accepted, but 50% will be deducted from the assignment’s grade.

7th grade: Late assignments will be accepted one class day late, but 50% will be deducted from the assignment’s grade. Assignments will also be accepted two class days late, but 75% will be deducted from the assignment’s grade. Assignments late more than two class days will not earn credit.

8th grade: Late assignments will be accepted one class day late, but 50% will be deducted from the assignment’s grade. Assignments late more than one class day will not earn credit.

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- Students in Ms. Apple’s class are also required to have the *Incomplete/Missing Assignment Notice* signed by their parent/guardian for the late work (class work as well as homework) to be accepted.
 - Similar to homework, **class assignments** will be accepted one class day late, but 50% will be deducted from the assignment’s grade. Assignments late more than one class day will not earn credit.
 - If the student has an IEP, 504, or Action Plan, time accommodations will be made based on the legal document.
 - At the teacher’s discretion, **major assignments** (large papers, projects, etc.) will be deducted twenty percent each class day late.
 - Cheating/Academic Dishonesty/Plagiarism – taking and using the thoughts, writings, inventions, etc. of another person as one’s own -- will not be tolerated. The assignment will receive zero credit and the student will be referred to the Front Office for additional appropriate consequence(s). If an individual allows another student to use/copy his/her work, this person will also receive zero credit and be referred to the Front Office for additional appropriate consequence(s).

- Parent/Guardian signatures (on quizzes, tests, Goal Sheets, etc.) are worth three points the first day they are returned, two points for the second day, and one point for the third day. If a quiz/test is below a 70%, the student is also required to make corrections to receive credit.

Grading

You will be graded on a point system. Each assignment will be assigned a specific number of points before it is given out. Your grade will be based on a percentage of your total points and participation. All work is important, thus always try to do your best.

Based on Howard County Public School Policy:

- 89.50-100% of the points = A
- 79.50-89.49% of the points = B
- 69.50-79.49% of the points = C
- 59.50-69.49% of the points = D
- 0-59.49% of the points = E

To keep track of his/her grade, each student is **required** to keep an up-to-date Grade Record Sheet.

Written Work

1. All written work should be neat (no “scratch-outs” and doodling allowed) and on a full sheet of paper. Paper must have trimmed edges. If you choose to type your assignments, please double space your work, use 12 point *Times* or *Times New Roman* font, and print in black ink.
2. All work must contain the student’s name, date, and class period in the upper right hand corner.
3. All written work must have an appropriate title.
4. Students are expected to apply the reading and writing skills they use in their English/Language Arts class in social studies. These skills include the
 - restatement of the question.
 - avoidance of using personal pronouns.
 - use of complete sentences.
 - appropriate use of sentence and paragraph structure.
 - appropriate use of capitalization and correct spelling.

Note: Credit will be deducted from the assignment’s final grade for not following directions.

Organization and How to Monitor Your Child's Progress

1. Students are required to keep **all** of their assignments in their social studies binder. The binder must be neat and organized. Graded assignments are usually returned within five to seven school days (one to three weeks for major assignments). I encourage parents/guardians to go through their child's binder to see the quality of their work and to monitor your child’s progress.
2. Completing and handing in assignments is your **child's responsibility**. Each student is required to copy down the homework in his/her Agenda Book every time they come to social studies class. I will not call home if your child has missed one or two assignments. **If missing work becomes a pattern for your child, I will send a note home via the Agenda Book.** Therefore, it very important that you monitor your child's Agenda Book on a regular basis to see how well they are doing in social studies.
3. I will be using the county provided on-line grading program to record and calculate your child’s grade. I will post grades only after your child has received their work back and understand why they earned the grade. Grades on the county provided on-line grading program will be posted approximately three times a quarter – before Interim Progress Reports, one week before the end of the quarter, and at the end of the quarter (final grade). Each child is required to maintain an up-to-date Grade Sheet. Time is devoted in class to record and calculate grades when assignments are returned. Thus, refer to your child’s Grade Sheet to monitor his/her progress and review the assignments for additional comments.
4. All quizzes, tests/assessments, and Goal Sheets must be signed by a parent/guardian and be returned to the teacher.

5. Binder check dates, quiz and test/assessment dates, study guides, class notes, projects, and appropriate research web sites will be posted electronically. Your child will be able to access this through HCPSS's Canvas learning management system.

6. If you have a question or concern about your child's progress, please send a note via your child's Agenda Book or call me at school (410-313-5520). If I am not available when you call, please leave a message including a phone number where you can be reached and I will return your call as soon as possible. If you must e-mail me, I will respond back by writing a note in your child's Agenda Book or by phone call. Please do NOT e-mail Mr. Apple unless it is a question/concern about Instrumental Music.

Parent/Guardian please sign below after reading and discussing the *Social Studies Guide* with your child.

Thank you for your cooperation and support,

Ms. Apple

Student Signature: _____

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____