

Wallenpaupack Area School District

Wallenpaupack Area Middle School

Course Title: Social Studies Grade 8

Length of Course: 1 semester

District Policies:

Academic Integrity:

Academic integrity is essential to the success of an educational community. Students are responsible for learning and upholding professional standards of research, writing, assessment, and ethics in their areas of study. Written or other work which students submit must be the product of their own efforts and must be consistent with appropriate standards of professional ethics. Academic dishonesty, which includes cheating, plagiarism, multiple submissions and other forms of dishonest or unethical behavior, is prohibited.

Assessment:

The goal of grading is to report student progress and achievement to the parents to strengthen the home-school connection. The grade should accurately reflect the student's performance in mastering the PA Standards and the WASD curriculum.

Attendance:

Regular school attendance is vitally important to academic success. Not only does attendance reinforce and enrich the learning process; it also establishes patterns and attitudes that will carry forward into adult work habits. Regular, consistent attendance is a prerequisite to successful school life. Children should be absent only in cases of illness or emergency.

Special Education:

Our commitment to each student is to ensure a free appropriate public education which begins with the general education setting, with the use of Supplementary Aids and Services. Inclusive education describes the successful education of all students with the appropriate supports and services to participate in and benefit from the general classroom settings and other educational environments.

Course Description: Eighth grade Social Studies is an opportunity for students to review geography skills, The French & Indian War, The rise of anti-British sentiments in the colonies, The Fight for Independence, the Growth of America as a new nation, The impact of the French revolution on early American policy, and the US Constitution and the Bill of Rights as well as the first 5 presidencies of the infant United States and their respective challenges.

Pennsylvania State Standards: All WAMS courses are aligned to the PA State Standards and Common Core Standards, where applicable.

Course Objectives:

Student will demonstrate the ability to:

1. Compare the relationship with the colonies and Britain at the beginning of the French & Indian War, and the relationship with the colonies and The British after the war has concluded.
2. Explain and interpret the factors that led to the writing of The Declaration of Independence and the American Revolution.
3. Describe the factors, leaders, and important battles that led to the colonists' victory in The American Revolution.
4. Discuss the importance of the Constitutional Convention and how it affects our Constitution and Bill of Rights.
5. Describe the purpose of our Constitution and discuss topics which influenced its creation and ratification.
6. Discuss Pennsylvania government/history and recall important members of early Pennsylvania history and their influence.
7. Demonstrate the impact the French Revolution had on an infant American republican and how it influenced American policy.
8. Discuss the difficulties and challenges faced throughout the first 5 presidencies of America's history, and the impact these challenges had on our early policies which helped to shape early America.

Student Responsibilities:

Attendance expectations: Attendance is essential to reaching your full potential in understanding social studies concepts.

Homework expectations: Assigned homework is expected to be completed to reinforce skills and concepts taught.

Make-up work: The allotted time to make-up homework is equal to the number of consecutive days of absence.

Late work: Late work may be accepted at the teacher's discretion.

Assessment:**Grading components:**

Homework and Class Work: 20%

Quizzes: 35%

Tests/Writing Assignments/Projects/Oral Reports: 45%

Final Grade: Marking Period 1: 44.5%, Marking Period 2: 44.5%, Final Exam: 11%

Topic	Major Assignments	Estimated Timeframe (Classes)
French & Indian War	Worksheets, homework, quizzes, French & Indian War Test	2 weeks
Turmoil over Taxation	Worksheets, homework, quizzes, Turmoil in the Colonies Test	2 weeks
American Revolution	Worksheets, homework, quizzes, American Revolution Test	2 weeks
The American Constitution	Worksheets, homework, quizzes, American Constitution Test	2 weeks
The American Bill of Rights	Worksheets, homework, quizzes, Bill of Rights Test	1 week
PA History / Unit / PA Constitution	Worksheets, homework, quizzes, Pennsylvania History Unit Test	1 week
French Revolution	Worksheets, homework, quizzes, French Revolution Test	2 weeks
American Presidencies from 1789 through 1825 and their respective challenges	Worksheets, homework, quizzes, Unit Test	6 weeks
Current Events	Class discussion, lecture, projects	As needed