

\*1.0 Credits: will meet graduation requirement for middle school \*

### Textbooks:

*Creating America*, 2005 Ed., McDougal Littell Publishing / *Creating America*, Student Workbook

### Course Description:

The 8<sup>th</sup> grade social studies curriculum consists of the following content area strands:

American History, Geography, Economics, and Civics. Primary content emphasis for this course pertains to the study of American history from the Exploration and Colonization period to the Reconstruction period following the Civil War. Students will be exposed to the historical, geographic, political, economic, and sociological events which influenced the development of the US and the resulting impact on world history.

**All Students will be required to participate & complete a History Fair Project per SLCSB's requirement.**

**HF Projects** are introduced in class with teacher guidance but are predominantly done at home.

### Course Requirements:

Tardiness is unacceptable; students must be in their seats at the beginning of class. If a student is absent, it is the student's responsibility to make up any missed work within **two** days for each **excused** absence. Students may obtain missed assignments from a peer, teacher, Class Website or Skyward. A portion of your class participation grade is based upon attendance, so attendance is vital. Adhere to all school policies & class rules.

### Course Topics:

**1<sup>st</sup> Quarter:** Settlement of the American Colonies / American Revolution / Intro to **History Fair**

**2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter:** Development of the US / History Fair / College & Career Planning

**3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter:** Emergence of an American Identity/ Westward Expansion

**4<sup>th</sup> Quarter:** Civil War / Reconstruction / College & Career Planning

A complete, detailed-description of course topics are found on our website: [www.stlucie.k12.fl.us](http://www.stlucie.k12.fl.us); Click on Parents & Students Tab, Curriculum, Middle school, Grade 8, Select Quarter under Social Studies Menu

### Assignments:

- Homework is due at the **beginning** of the class period and will be assigned as needed.
- Class work will be collected at the end of the period or may be allowed to finish for homework.
- Assignments **must** be written in pencil, blue or black ink and on loose leaf paper. **Any other color ink will not be accepted and must be recopied within 24 hours to receive credit.**
- All **Projects** are due on the assigned due date. If a student is absent on a project due date, the student must turn it in upon returning to class or in advance, in the case of a scheduled absence.

**Late Work Policy:** Any LATE work must be in the **NEXT day** to receive credit

1<sup>st</sup> late assignment may receive **FULL** credit.

2<sup>nd</sup> late assignment grade will be reduced by 20% .

3<sup>rd</sup> or more late assignments will receive a max of 50% credit.

### Materials:

- 2 Folders with pockets (Red, Blue), a USB storage device is strongly recommended
- 2+ packs of filler paper, 1 pack of Index Cards (ruled/lined 3x5)
- Pencil pouch with pencils, erasers, blue/black ink pens, highlighters, and colored pencils
- 2 Composition book (no spiral bounds) (See additional 8<sup>th</sup> Grade supply list)

**Students must come to class prepared with these supplies along with their West Gate Planners.**

### Tests and Quizzes:

All students present will take test/quizzes on the days they are given. Tests and quizzes are announced at least a week in advance. Students should always study their notes, **read their textbooks**, and complete their homework to be prepared for assessments.

### Projects/Papers:

There will be several projects/papers assigned each grading period. Projects/Papers consist of developing topics, researching primary and secondary sources, and presenting findings. Projects will likely need a display board and Papers need to be typed and bound. There will be mini-projects occasionally. Rubrics will be issued for each project assigned with clear expectations and grading guidelines to adhere to.

*(Available on Class Website & Skyward)*

**Grading Policy:**

- **Assessments:** (Tests, quizzes, evaluations, etc.) **35 %**
- **Classwork:** (Group/individual assignments, power points, etc.) **25 %**
- **Projects:** (History Fair, group/individual/mini-projects, Papers, etc.) **20 %**
- **Participation:** (Journals, Oral presentations, Debates/discussions, etc.) **10 %**
- **Home Learning:** (Current events, Workbooks, Graphic Organizers, etc.) **10 %**

*Midterm & Final Exams account for 20% of a student’s GPA in all academic classes and could possibly be projects and/or other forms of assessment rather than paper & pencil exams.*

**Journals:**

Students are required to have a composition notebook for daily journal entries. A topic will be posted on the board at the beginning of class and a paragraph must be written on the topic. These journals are to remain in the classroom and will be graded weekly. **\*DO NOT TAKE HOME\***

**Classroom Policies:** (All School-wide rules will be enforced in class)

1. Respect your Teacher, your classmates, and yourself.
2. Treat the room, those in the room, and its contents with respect.
3. Gum chewing, eating or drinking (except water bottles) are **not** allowed in class.
4. Cell phones and all other electronic devices must be turned off and not visible.
5. School dress code will be enforced (All shirts must be tucked in).
6. Students must be present and on time; prepared for class upon arriving.
7. Students must stay in seat, remain on task, and raise their hand before addressing the class or teacher.
8. Clean up after yourself before leaving.

**Academic Honesty Policy:**

Violations of the academic honesty policy includes willful or deliberate unauthorized use of the work of another person for academic purposes, or inappropriate use of notes, or other material in the completion of an academic assignment or test. In addition to disciplinary responses, the granting of credit for this assignment may be considered null and void.

**Teacher’s Message:**

I expect **good, positive behavior at all times**. Disruptive behavior is not accepted nor will it be tolerated in the classroom. Parent involvement is important for student success, therefore I will use our Class Website & Skyward as a means of communication throughout the year. I will make phone calls and/or send emails as needed, please make sure that your contact information is updated & correct in Skyward so that communication can be made. Parents are encouraged to regularly monitor their child’s Skyward Account for important class information.

Finally, you are here for an education and my responsibility is to prepare you for high school and beyond. Our West Gate Faculty will give you the skills, teach you responsibility, encourage organization and model positive attitude so that you may believe in yourself and have the ability to succeed in life. It is important to start setting goals now and think of the future. **So plan to have a positive attitude and we will have a fantastic school year!**

**Student Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Parent Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Parent Contact #** \_\_\_\_\_ **Parent Email:** \_\_\_\_\_

**\*Signed Syllabus is due NEXT DAY upon receipt. Student must keep in folder at all times.\***