

U.S. HISTORY - 8TH GRADE



Mrs. Blakeney
RM 105

Email: rblakeney@newcaneyisd.org
Conference: 7th period Time: 1:45 - 2:30
281-577-8840

History Matters! Learn from the PAST, live in the PRESENT, and plan for the FUTURE.

Syllabus

Class

Objective: Students will investigate, comprehend, and demonstrate knowledge of the significant details and concepts of early American History to 1877.

Textbook: The American Republic to 1877, Texas Ed. Published by Glencoe, McGraw-Hill (2003).

Workbook: Reading Essentials and Study Guide, TAKS Practice Edition, Student Workbook.

Online Access: Students are encouraged to use the online textbook for test preparation and assignment completion.

<http://www.mhln.com> select student(green) / parent (orange) **CLASS CODE:** blakeney

Supplies: In order for you to be successful, you need to be *PREPARED* everyday. You are required to bring the following items daily:

Planner (Provided by KCMS) – if misplaced, replacements need to be purchased

U.S. History Binder (with 5 sectional divider tabs)

Map Pencils (may leave in the assigned area within the classroom)

Pencil Sharpener (manual and small enough to fit in pouch)

Pencil Pouch for binder

Writing Utensils – Pencil/Pen (blue or black only)

Red Grading Pen

Planner: You are *required* to bring your planner to class everyday. It will be used to record daily assignments, homework, project due dates, test dates, instructor notes to parents, and other important information. It should be used to help you effectively plan for success in this class. It should be reviewed daily by you as a student and weekly by your parent or guardian. Planner checks will count as a daily grade.

Binder: It is *mandatory* that you have your binder in class everyday. Your binder should have the following tabs: *Warm Ups, Vocabulary, Units (Notes), Reviews, Homework, and Extra Credit*. Your binder needs to stay organized. DO NOT throw anything away. Your SEM / FINAL Exams will be comprehensive! Binder checks will count as a daily grade.

Class work: Everyone is expected to put forth their best effort. All assignments must be legible *with the proper heading*. If the assignment is not readable it will be returned without a grade for you to complete again. Also, if students earn below 75% on an assignment you will have the option of taking **one day** (1) to make *full* corrections and resubmit it for a maximum of 80 points.

Homework: Students will be responsible for completing all homework assignments. Homework enhances and supports what we are learning in class. Homework will be given at least twice a week. In accordance with district policy, **No late homework will be accepted.** Students will be required to sign a missing homework/assignment page in acknowledgement of their choice of a 0.

Projects: Students will be required to complete two (2) major projects this year. Topics will be discussed and explored in class each semester. Projects will count as a TEST grade (see grades below). Again, students will be required to sign a missing project/assignment page in acknowledgement of their choice of a 0. Project due dates are subject to change, but are tentatively set as follows:

1st Semester Project 1 due just before Christmas Break
2nd Semester Project 2 due just after Spring Break

Tests: Students will be responsible for studying for quizzes (daily grade) and Unit Tests. In addition to these assessments, students will take two Bench Marks and the 8th Grade Social Studies TAKS test this year. Students are encouraged to form study groups or find a study buddy.

Extra Credit: Students will receive many opportunities and options for Extra Credit. Hard work is rewarded. – **Extra credit will not take the place of a major project or test grade.** However, it is possible to add points to any assignment.

Tutorials: Tutoring will be available for students who request or need it. Social Studies tutoring will be offered in the morning (before school). Study / Work groups may request morning time for studying or group project work before school by appointment as well. If you are unable to make morning tutoring sessions, appointments will be taken and arrangements made for an alternate time.

Absences: Absent students will be responsible for picking up and completing their missed assignments. He/she has one (1) day for each days absence to turn in the work for full credit.

* All previously planned assignments (projects, tests) given prior to the students absence will be due on the original due date. Due dates will not be postponed. For example, if the student has been aware of a Friday due date (noted in planner, on board, etc.) for Project X or Test Y, and he/she was absent a day that week (M, T, W, TH), the due date will not be extended to Monday.

Grade Computation:

Daily grades = **40%** of overall grade (at least 10 grades per six weeks)
Homework = **10%** of overall grade (at least 6 grades per six weeks)
Tests/Projects = **50%** of overall grade (at least 2 grades per six weeks)

Grading Scale:

A	90 – 100	Excellent progress
B	80 – 89	Good progress
C	75 – 79	Satisfactory progress / Average progress
D	70 – 74	Minimal Progress
F	69 – 0	Unsatisfactory progress
I		Incomplete

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Course Outline

September – October

European Exploration
Incas, Aztecs, Mayans, Columbus, Magellan, Balboa
English Colonization
Roanoke, Jamestown, Pilgrims, The 13 Original Colonies
Colonial Growth
Colonial Life, Colonial Government, French and Indian War
Road to Independence
British Taxation, British Acts, Declaration of Independence

November – December

The Revolutionary War
George Washington, Redcoats, Boston, Yorktown
Building a New Country
Articles of Confederation, The Constitution, The First Presidents, Political Parties, Early Struggles
The Jefferson Era
Louisiana Purchase, War of 1812, Lewis and Clark

January – February

The Jackson Era
Jacksonian Democracy, Conflict Over the National Bank, Manifest Destiny
North and South
Economic Differences, Political Differences, Slavery, Cotton, Abolition, Women's Rights

March – April

The Civil War
Secession, The Two Sides, Battles, Life During the War, Union Victory
Reconstruction
Plans, Carpetbaggers, Muckrakers, Changes in the South

May – June

Prepare for and administer the TAKS TEST
Modern America
WWI, WWII, Vietnam, 9/11, War on Terrorism

Renee Blakeney
8th Grade
U.S. History

Dear Parent:

Welcome to the 2009- 2010 school year! It is with great anticipation and excitement that we begin our year at Keefer Crossing with your child. We have an exciting year planned for your eighth grader. Our class will cover European exploration to post-Civil War America. While it is a large amount of material to cover, we believe we will be able to work at a brisk enough pace to cover all the material before the very important TAKS test in the spring. We may have various projects due throughout the year and I will inform your child well in advance of their due dates. Please review the syllabus online or your child's copy they received in class. In addition, please review and sign the class rules and procedures papers that your child should have with them.

Supplies:

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| 1- Planner (provided by KCMS) | 1- Three Ring Binder |
| 1- Pack of map pencils | 1- Pencil pouch |
| 2- Packs of pencils/pens (blue/black only) | 1- Pencil sharpener (manual) |
| 1- Jumbo Book cover (stretchy) | 2- large packs of loose leaf paper-college ruled |
| 1- Package of Dividers (5 any color) | 1- Box of Tissue |

Please note the following:

1. Class materials(notes, handouts, etc.) will be kept in a **3 Ring Binder**.
2. Benchmark Tests will be given periodically to assess progress towards TAKS goals.
3. Special assignments and Extra Credit will be available throughout the year.
4. Students will participate in classroom activities.
5. Students will be expected to follow class and school rules.
6. Late work will not be accepted (extenuating circumstances will be considered.)
7. We will use **planners** again this year for assignments. I will check it on a regular basis and use it to communicate and send notes home to parents.

The computation of grades is as follows:

Daily grades	=	40% of overall grade (at least 10 grades per six weeks)
Homework	=	10% of overall grade (at least 6 grades per six weeks)
Tests/Projects	=	50% of overall grade (at least 2 grades per six weeks)

I am available from 1:45 till 2:30 for conferences. I will also be available before school to be of assistance to students or parents. My email is rblakeney@newcaneyisd.org and is listed on the NCISD web site. Please encourage your child to meet with me if they are having problems in history. If you or your child cannot meet during the times provided, please let me know and we will work something out. If you have any questions, please contact me. I look forward to working with you and your child to make this a successful year.

Sincerely,

Renee Blakeney