

2007-2008 Course Description
8th Grade U.S. History: Beginnings through Reconstruction

Twin Creeks Middle School
Teacher: Shelly Tindle
Website: www.mstindle.com

School Phone: 832-764-7850
Email: shellyt@springisd.org

Course Description: This course is a survey of the history of the United States through Reconstruction. Through lecture, assignments, activities, tests and projects, we will cover a broad range of topics including geography, colonization, the Revolutionary War, government, westward expansion, slavery, and the Civil War. This course is intended to give the student a greater understanding of the United States and its rich history through the Civil War. It will enhance the student's understanding of how our great country began and some of the people and events most important to its history.

This year, I would like to begin providing some assignments and study materials online. In order to know how to design the lessons so that everyone can participate, I need to know about my students' access to a computer and the Internet.. Please check out my website for helpful information and links and, depending on the outcome of this survey, I hope to be able to post projects and assignments there from time to time as well.

Computer at home? _____ Windows PC _____ Mac _____ None

Internet? _____ High-speed (DSL or cable) _____ Dial-up _____ None

Assignment Policy: It is the responsibility of the student to complete and return assignments on the date that they are due. Late work is 25 points off the first day late, 50 points off the second & third day late, and a no credit after the third day late.

Daily grades – 40% of average **Test grades** – 60% of average

Required Materials: Students enrolled in this course will be responsible for bringing the following items to class daily:

1. Black or blue pen and pencil
2. **Single subject spiral notebook to be kept in the classroom**
3. Binder or folder for returned assignments and handouts
4. Map pencils (to be left in class if at all possible)

Class sets of textbooks are kept in each classroom. Any parent may request a copy of the textbook, *Creating America*, to be checked out to them by contacting the school directly. The textbook will also be available online at www.classzone.com. We will set up student accounts for access to this resource in the days to come.

One of the goals of this class is to help students develop the organizational skills and study skills to be prepared for high school. It is extremely important that students develop a system for keeping up with their assignments and we will work throughout the year to help them acquire this skill. Students, it is time to be responsible for your work as lost or late work will result in zeros and failures. You will need to refer to your notes and assignments throughout the year, so let's get off to a great start this year, and stay organized!

Classroom Guidelines:

1. **Everyone** will be treated with respect.
2. Put-downs or purposely hurtful comments or actions will not be tolerated.
3. No one will be allowed to disrupt the learning process of others.

When we **all** follow these rules, we will have a cooperative, tolerant classroom where everyone will learn history in the most successful and interesting way possible.

Consequences:

1. Verbal warning
2. Student / Teacher conference
3. Teacher d-hall assigned
4. Parent phone call
5. Referral to principal's office

Severe offenses will result in an immediate principal referral.

Tutorials: I am available Monday, Thursday, and Friday mornings for tutorials. Students needing to do make-up work can come in on Wednesdays during lunch as well. I am available Monday - Thursday afternoons until 5:00 ***with prior notice.***

8th grade U.S. History is a TAKS tested subject and 8th grade material is on the 10th and 11th grade TAKS tests as well. This year, the U.S. History TAKS test will be given Friday, May 2nd and we will prepare all year for this important test.

Parents, please take time to review this information with your child and return it to me with your signature and a daytime phone number. Please feel free to call with questions or concerns anytime. My conference periods are 2nd at 9:45 and 7th at 2:20. If you wish to email me, I will respond as quickly as possible. I look forward to a great year with your child and getting to know you as well!

Parent Signature: _____

Date: _____

Daytime phone number where I can reach you: _____