 Ms. Mary Cummens

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**Course Overview**

**From North Carolina Department of Public Instruction: “The new essential stands for eighth grade will integrate United States history with the study of North Carolina history.** This integrated study helps students understand the legacy of our democratic republic and to develop skills needed to engage responsibly and intelligently. This course will serve as a stepping stone for more intensive study in high school. Students examine the role of people, events, and issues in United States history. The time frame for this course covers the first Americans to contemporary times.

**Welcome**

**Teaching is a job I chose, because I truly enjoy students and being involved in their learning process. I will support and help you in anyway possible. Saying that also means I have a high belief in your ability to be very successful with you putting in effort. I look forward to being with you this year!!!!**

**My Expectations for the class are:**

Be prepared Bring materials to class

Be positive Good attitude and ready to learn and work

Be respectful Treat others the way you would want to be treated

Be responsible Learning is your responsibility!

**Materials**

The agenda, a binder with a social studies section, composition notebook, paper, pencils, colored pencils, pens (blue or black and red are required) are to be brought to class daily. If you are unprepared by not having any of these items, it is in your best interest to be resourceful. Try to borrow from a classmate if possible. If you are stuck, see me.

Academic Integrity

Cheating is never allowed in this class. You are expected to complete all assignments individually and submit only original work. Some class assignments require you to work with other students, but it will be made clear in class which assignments are group work. The consequence for cheating is a zero on the assignment, in addition to the consequence set forth in the DDMS discipline policy.

Absences

Regular attendance is key to academic success. **Whether you are in class or not, you remain responsible for all work due**, assignments given, policies announced etc. each day. Check Google classroom or my website [mcummensss2@weebly.com](mailto:mcummensss2@weebly.com) . Making up missed work is **solely** the student’s responsibility.

**Make-up Work**

School work will be made up for excused absences in accordance with Board Policy 6000.

Grade Weights 40% Major Assessments (Tests, Projects)

25% Quizzes

25% Class work

10% Homework

**Major Assessments**

Plenty of study and completion time will be given for tests and projects. Tests / projects will be given after each unit.

**Class work**

Students are expected to remain on task and academically engaged for the entire class period and to turn in all assigned classwork. Unfinished class work turns into homework.

**Quizzes**

Frequent quizzes will be given to assess understanding and provide opportunity for reteaching throughout a unit.

**Homework**

Work that is required to do outside the classroom, this can be done before school during homeroom, dragon time, and bus room. Homework consists of online videos.

**Late work**

Late work has a one week extended time period.

**Help**

If you find that you are not doing well in social studies, talk to me!. Here are some starter phrases for you to use, in case you can’t think of any:

* “I am having trouble with my project. Can you give me some advice?”
* “How can I improve my grade?”
* “I didn’t do well on my test. How can I do better on the next one?”
* If you do not feel comfortable asking in person, email me, or give a note. Bottom line: communicate!

The time to worry about your grade is before you get it, not after!

**Please keep this in the front of the social studies section of your binder.**

Student: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ has read and understood the syllabus for 8th grade Social Studies.

Parent: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ has read and understood the syllabus for 8th grade Social Studies.

Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_