

Forest Meadow Middle School

8th Grade Advanced US History

2025-2026

Contact Information:

Ms. Emily Dickey	469-593-1466	Room: B114
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Dear US History Students and Parents,

I could not be more excited about our year together! In 8th grade U.S. History, we will investigate the history of the United States from the Colonial period through Reconstruction. At the conclusion of the course students will take the US History STAAR test. Outside the STAAR test, this course is designed to best prepare students to succeed in high school advanced, AP, and dual-credit social studies classes.

8th Grade Course Outline

Fall 2025

Unit 01 – Exploration and Colonization

Unit 02 – American Revolution

Unit 03 – Constitution

Unit 04 – Early Republic

Unit 05 – Age of Jackson

Spring 2026

Unit 06 – Industrialization

Unit 07 – Reform & Culture

Unit 08 – Westward Expansion

Unit 09 – Sectionalism & Civil War

Unit 10 – Reconstruction

For more detailed information, please contact the campus teacher.

Overall Goals for students in this class:

- Be a successful individual and student!
- Prepare for 8th grade History STAAR test.
- Prepare for High School advanced, dual-credit, and AP courses.

Expectations:

- Come prepared to learn each class period.
- Have a *charged* laptop, pencil, notebook, and folder each class.
- Respect your peers, your teacher, and your environment.
- Put in effort, complete work, and learn responsibility.

Grading Guidelines:

- 50%: (Major Grades) Projects and Tests
- 50%: (Minor Grades) Daily Work, Homework, Participation, and Quizzes
- Each student will receive at least 14 minor grades and 2 major grades per 9-weeks.
- Participation grades will be based on effort, participation in class discussions, question creation, and completion of work.

Class Procedures:

1. Students will be ready to begin class when the bell rings. On time is when the student is seated, with supplies, ready to learn when the bell rings.
2. Students are responsible for keeping up to date with their notes, assignments, and assessments.
3. Students will be required to have their supplies every day.
4. Students may only leave the classroom at appropriate times with a **valid** pass & permission.
5. Students will treat all borrowed supplies with respect and return supplies before leaving class.
6. Students must follow all school-wide policies.

Homework

Students will have homework occasionally. Homework is to be turned in at the start of class. Parents will be notified of homework. Homework will be limited to the following:

1. Study Guides
2. Work not completed in class

Late Work Policy

Late work is generally accepted. **Late work is different from absent work.**

If something is assigned to be completed in class, it must be completed in class.

Rules for projects and tests may be different. Normal late work deductions:

- 5 points off every day late
- 30 points off is the most that will be removed
- **Late work is not accepted after the final quarter deadline.**

	<u>Monday</u>	<u>Tuesday</u>	<u>Wednesday</u>	<u>Thursday</u>	<u>Friday</u>
<u>Week 1</u>	Assignment due during class Turned in after school? 5 pts off	5 pts off	10 points off	15 points off	20 points off
<u>Week 2</u>	25 points off	30 points off	30 points off	30 points off	30 points off

Behavioral Expectations: The main key to success in this class is effort.

1. Respect yourself, your peers, your teacher, and your environment
2. Be on time
3. Come prepared for class (supplies, effort, homework)
4. Be kind and respectful.
5. Complete your work and do your best
6. Turn in your work (on time)
7. Study for your test and quizzes (complete your study guides!)
8. No cell phones, wireless headphones, or smart watches. No personal electronics.
9. No eating in the classroom
10. Plagiarism is NOT tolerated. AI is not allowed unless specified by the teacher.

Technology Policy:

Cell phones are expected to be locked in a **Yondr pouch** during all school hours. This class is no exception. There is a no tolerance policy for cell phones, wireless earbuds, and smart watches.

Chromebooks are used in class most days but will only be permitted at certain times. Use of technology is a privilege and can be revoked if the student misuses the device.

Disrupting the learning environment of others is not acceptable.

Consequences for disruptive behavior:

1. Verbal warning/ conference with student
2. Written warning/ conference with student and parent contact
3. Detention/ conference with student and parent contact
4. Removal from the classroom/ Office referral

Acceptable Use of Technology:

Students at Forest Meadow are given a privilege to use laptop computers on a daily basis. Many class assignments and projects will require these laptops in class. Therefore, students must utilize and/or develop the responsibility to remain on task with these laptops.

Tutoring:

Weekly tutoring times are: **Monday & Wednesday 4:00-4:45 pm**

Students are expected to communicate with me if they are planning to attend. You must have a ride home. There is a 5:00 bus that will take students home.

If you are unable to make the official times, tutoring is also available by appointment. Email me to schedule alternate times.

Students are encouraged to come to tutoring should they need extra help. Special tutoring sessions may be scheduled for tests/major projects. Any last minute changes to tutoring times will be posted on my website or sent out via TalkingPoints.

Extra Credit

Extra credit will be available for all students once per quarter. Extra credit will be related to recent units and posted to Schoology 2 weeks before the end of the quarter. Extra Credit is not accepted late.

Absences:

Absent students are expected to obtain the assignments upon return to school. Students will then complete and turn in the assignment from the day that they are absent. If assistance is needed, students are encouraged to attend tutoring.

Students will have the same number of days plus one to complete the assignment(s) and/or assessment. You may always email me or stop by if you have questions.

Supplies List

Required:

Notebook

- Spiral (8.5" x 10") OR Composition Notebook (7.5 x 9.75")
- If you write exceptionally large, you may need a 2 subject spiral

Folder or pocket to keep papers

Pencils

Optional:

Highlighter

Ink Pens

Glue

Scissors

Colored Pencils