



Salem Middle School

8th grade Social Studies

In this class, students will examine key people, events, and issues that have contributed to the unique history and culture of our state. These people, events, and issues are examined in the context of the nation as a whole.

Key topics covered during the 8th grade year:

NC Geography	Industrial Revolution/Progressivism
Pre-Revolutionary Period	Great Depression/WWII
Revolutionary Period	Cold War Period
Constitutional Period	Civil Rights Movement
Early Republic	Rights/responsibilities of citizenship
Civil War and Reconstruction	

Key Question: How will social studies be taught? It is often said that our curriculum is a “mile long and an inch deep.” Our main objective is to achieve all of our mandated goals by focusing on key, integral events in depth rather than trying to cover everything superficially. We use a variety of learning methods and materials to access and analyze content.

Materials needed:

- 1 3-ring binder with loose leaf paper
- Pens/Pencils, Colored Pencils and highlighter
- School-issued Chromebook with earbuds

Grading: There will be two categories of grades in Social Studies. They are weighted as follows:

- 40% - Assignments (skills checks, such as classwork)
- 60% - Assessments (i.e. quizzes, tests, projects)

Assignments are completed throughout a unit to assist the student in developing knowledge of the Social Studies content. *Assessments* are an opportunity for students to “show what they know” (mastery) after a period of learning. Both Assignments and Assessments will take various forms throughout the semester. Students will be informed when a task is assigned if it will be graded as an Assignment or an Assessment.

Late Work: Work is due at the date and time specified. If work is late, points may be deducted. If you are struggling to keep up with the work or the due dates, please reach out to me so we can work out a plan to get you back on track. Communication is the key.

Class Expectations: Please come to class prepared to work, learn, discuss and cooperate. We will incorporate a mix of notes, group work, videos, textbook activities and hands-on learning. Social Studies is a class with many opinions involved. It is important that you share your opinions and respect those of your classmates. You may disagree, but you must never disrespect. One of the great things about our country is that our Constitution protects freedom of speech. The social studies classroom is a great, safe place to practice using your voice in a constructive way.

Brief bio: Mrs. Roberts graduated from North Carolina State University in 2006. This will be her 20th year at Salem Middle (longer if you count student teaching). Mrs. Roberts is married with two sons (ages 11 and 8) and a black lab named Cole. She enjoys gardening, cooking, and fishing.

Questions? Please feel free to email me if you have any questions or need any additional support. I ask that you kindly allow 1 full school day for a response. I do not typically check email in the evenings when I am with my family. My email address is sroberts@wcpss.net. Canvas is also a great resource!