

# What is my child learning in social studies this week?

## **May 16, 2025**

This week in Social Studies class we focused on John Adams and some of the more controversial aspects of his presidency including the XYZ Affair and the Alien and Sedition Acts. Next week we will continue our unit on the early leadership of our nation.

Please let me know if you have any questions. Have a great weekend!

## **May 2, 2025**

This week we continued examining some of the earliest leaders of our nation including Jefferson, Hamilton and Adams. Next week the students will focus on Adams and his role as the second president of the United States.

Next week state testing for science will begin on Wednesday and Thursday. State testing will resume the week after that for ELA and math.

Have a wonderful weekend! Please let me know if you have any questions.

## **April 17, 2025**

This week we began our new unit on leadership in the new nation. We started with George Washington and completed an activity where students pretended they were Washington and examined difficult situations he was put in during his presidency.

After break we will resume the unit by discussing Jefferson and Hamilton. Please let me know if you have any questions. Have a wonderful spring break!

## **April 11, 2025**

This week students completed their Bill of Rights playlist project and they did a great job! I am really enjoying reviewing them :) Students also took a quiz on the Bill of Rights. In class we analyzed some landmark cases about student's rights in school based on real court cases and

the Bill of Rights. Next week we will be starting a new unit about launching our new nation. We will be looking at some of the nation's early leaders and the struggles they faced.

Please let me know if you have any questions. Have a great weekend!

#### **April 4, 2025**

We continued working on the Bill of Rights and students will have a quiz next week 4/8 (b day) and 4/9 (a day). Students will also be submitting part 2 of their Hamilton packets next week. B day began working on a Bill of Rights playlist assignment and A day will start that next week.

Please let me know if you have any questions. Have a great weekend!

#### **March 28, 2025**

This week we began our unit on the Bill of Rights. We did a brief overview of each of the first ten amendments and will be going more in depth with each of them as the unit progresses. We discussed the first amendment and what that allows you to do and what some limits on the first amendment are.

Please let me know if you have any questions. Have a great weekend!

#### **March 21, 2025**

This week we finished our unit on the Constitution and next week we will begin our Bill of Rights unit. Students completed a test and a Constitution one pager for the end of unit assessments.

The trimester ended on 3/17 and we are officially in the third trimester. Please keep an eye on genesis to monitor your child's grade throughout this trimester.

Please let me know if you have any questions. Have a great weekend!

#### **March 13, 2025**

This week we focused on reviewing material from the whole unit in order to prepare for our upcoming assessment. I switched the date of the test because many students had a science test and math test on that same day. The new dates are 3/19 (b day) and 3/20 (a day). Students are currently working on a Constitution one pager which is a visual representation of all they learned this unit. The test and the one pager will be the first two grades of the new trimester.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

#### **March 7, 2025**

This week we continued exploring the Constitution and focused on the branches of government. We discussed the responsibilities of each branch and the system of checks and balances that we used to ensure no one branch gets too much power. We have a test coming up and the tentative dates are 3/17 (b day) and 3/18 (a day).

Just a reminder that the trimester ends 3/17. Please review your child's grade on genesis and have them complete any missing assignments as soon as possible.

Please let me know if you have any questions. Have a great weekend!

### **February 21, 2025**

This week students took an assessment, submitted their ratification advertisements and we began our next unit about the Constitution. We started discussing the preamble and the goals of the Constitution and they even had the pleasure of listening to the Schoolhouse Rock song about the preamble which some of you may remember from your school days!

Please let me know if you have any questions. Have a great weekend!

### **February 13, 2025**

This week in social studies we learned about Federalists and Anti-Federalists. A day students began working on advertisements either promoting or discouraging the ratification of the Constitution. B day students will begin this on Tuesday. There will be a quiz on Wednesday 2/19 for A day students and Thursday 2/20 for B day students.

Please let me know if you have any questions. Have a great weekend!

### **February 7, 2025**

This week we began learning about the Articles of Confederation and the Constitutional Convention. Students pretended they were delegates at the convention and had to try to find compromises to difficult problems the founding fathers faced. We will have a quiz on Feb 19th (a day) and Feb 18th (b day). The students have a study guide on google classroom to help them prepare.

Please let me know if you have any questions. Have a great weekend!

### **January 31, 2025**

This week in social studies we finished our Holocaust unit and returned to early US history. The students are learning about the Articles of Confederation and Shay's Rebellion.

Please let me know if you have any questions. Have a great weekend!

### **January 24, 2025**

This week we continued discussing the Holocaust and we will be ending our Holocaust unit next week. Students are currently working on responding to a writing prompt about the political, social and economic conditions that led to the Nazis being able to gain power. This background knowledge will help the students when they get to their Holocaust unit in LA.

Please let me know if you have any questions. Have a great weekend!

### **January 17, 2025**

This week we are learning about the causes of the Holocaust and WWII. We are discussing the social, political and economic factors that led to the rise of the Nazis and ultimately students will have to respond to a writing prompt where they detail these conditions.

Please let me know if you have any questions. Have a great weekend!

### **January 10, 2025**

This week in social studies, we explored the Declaration of Independence and completed Part I of our Hamilton (the musical) assignment.

Next week, we will transition to studying the Holocaust. This shift connects to the upcoming Holocaust unit in language arts classes. In social studies, we will provide historical context, focusing on the Holocaust's origins and Hitler's rise to power. This foundational knowledge will help students better understand the texts they will encounter in their language arts lessons. We will cover this topic for 1-2 weeks and then resume our content on the American Revolution.

Please let me know if you have any questions. Have a great weekend!

### **December 16, 2024**

Unfortunately, I was out sick most of last week, and we had to postpone our Netflix presentations. My A3 class was able to present this afternoon, B day students will present tomorrow and A1 and A2 will present on Wednesday.

Students have started working on a DBQ essay where they analyze primary sources from patriots and loyalists and will use that information to write an essay outline. Our main focus for the essay outline is the ability to use the information from the primary sources to write an effective thesis statement.

The presentations and DBQs will take us through the rest of this week. I hope you and your families have a happy holiday and a happy, healthy New Year!

### **December 6, 2024**

The Netflix project is due 12/10 (A day) and 12/11 (B day). I am so excited to see the finished products! After our Netflix project presentations, we will be analyzing primary source documents about loyalists and patriots.

Please let me know if you have any questions. Have a wonderful weekend!

### **November 20, 2024**

Today and tomorrow students are beginning a project in social studies class. This is a Netflix themed project and the students have had so much fun working on this in the past! This project is worth 55 points and will be the first major assessment of the second trimester.

The students are allowed to work independently, in pairs or in groups of three of their choice. I will speak to the students about the importance of choosing a partner or group that will help them be most successful. I will remind students that they can work with their friends during class time, but still submit separate assignments so that they have more autonomy over the final project. Please also discuss this with your child at home. While A day students did start the project today, it is not too late for them to choose to work independently if that is what you as a family decide is best.

The project is a Netflix project where the students will create a fictional tv series about the causes of the American Revolution. They will be creating a show title, series summary, series trailer, eight episode titles and summaries, and some more creative details. As I track the student's progress, I will set a final due date. I am anticipating that the due date will be sometime during the week of 12/2.

Please let me know if you have any questions!

### **November 15, 2024**

This week in social studies we continued to learn about the causes of the American Revolution and examined these causes by analyzing primary sources from multiple perspectives. Students have also been working on a study guide for their quiz on 11/22 (a day) and 11/25 (b day).

Please let me know if you have any questions. Have a great weekend!

### **November 6, 2024**

This week in social studies we further explored the causes of the American Revolution and we will continue to explore that topic next week.

Please check genesis to see your child's current average in social studies. Missing assignments can be turned in late for partial credit.

Have a great weekend!

### **October 25, 2024**

This week in social studies we are finishing our unit on life in the colonies. The students are showcasing their knowledge by creating a colonial recruitment website which aims to encourage Europeans to come and settle in the colonies by highlighting the climate, geography, economy, lifestyle, leisure activities, etc.

Next week we will begin our unit on the causes of the American Revolution.

### **October 18, 2024**

In social studies class this week, we took a closer look at the Thirteen Colonies and discussed the climate, geography, reasons for settlement, religion, government, and economy of each of the colonies. Students worked together to complete posters and graphic organizers with the information. Additionally, we played review games and prepared for our quiz, which was today for A day students and will be on Monday for B day students.

Please let me know if you have any questions. Have a great weekend!

### **October 11, 2024**

This week in social studies students finished presenting the Columbus Trial projects and we began a new unit focusing on the Thirteen Colonies. We have been working with maps and exploring the regions where people chose to settle. Students will have their first quiz on the colonial regions on Friday, October 18th (A day) and Monday, October 21 (B day). The quiz will be multiple choice and we will prepare by playing Kahoot and completing a study guide.

Please let me know if you have any questions. Have a great weekend!

### **September 27, 2024**

This week in social studies students worked on their Columbus trial project.

Presentations for the Columbus trial are 10/4 (A day) and 10/7 (B day).

The project requires that students work in groups and act as attorneys who will present in front of the jury. The trial is for the death of the Tainos, a group of Native Americans that faced enslavement, death and cultural demise after the arrival of Europeans. Students worked to gather evidence to defend their clients and evidence to assign blame to another group.

Students are learning to:

- work with primary and secondary sources
- write thesis statements
- use evidence to support their claim
- complete research
- work collaboratively
- be persuasive
- speak publicly

The students have worked really hard on this assignment over the last few class blocks and I cannot wait to hear their final presentations!

Have a great weekend!

### **September 20, 2024**

In social studies this week we worked on writing thesis statements. Students took their original thesis statements from the benchmark assignment and gave them a "glow up".

Additionally, we introduced a new project about Christopher Columbus and the Tainos. The Tainos are the people native to the Caribbean at the time of Columbus' arrival. Students will work in groups and pretend to be lawyers in the trial of the death of the Tainos. We will continue working on this project all of next week. The project will be due the week of 9/30, but the exact due date has not been determined yet. I will check in with groups early next week to see their progress and determine a date based off of that.

Please let me know if you have any questions. I hope you have a wonderful weekend!

### **September 10, 2024**

My name is Megan Julian and I will be your child's 8th grade social studies teacher. I will be sending weekly email updates to provide you with information about what is happening in our classes and any upcoming assignments. I know 8th grade students can be reluctant to share information about their school days and I hope these email updates will provide you with some talking points.

In social studies so far we have done several ice breakers, reviewed classroom procedures, and our A day students covered the events of September 11th using a variety of primary sources. B day students will be covering 9/11 next class. Students had an unofficial homework assignment which was to ask you to share your story from 9/11 and what your experiences were that day. If your child forgot to ask you, and you are willing to share that information, please share your story with them tonight.

If you are receiving this email and do not wish to be on the distribution list or if you have any other email addresses that you would like me to add, please let me know.

I am looking forward to working with you and your child this school year. Please let me know if you have any questions.

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### **May 17, 2024**

This week in social studies students finished an activity called "Speed Dating for America" where they explored the values of America and what leaders in the late 1700s were the best fit for the new nation. We then began to explore John Adams' presidency and students worked on ad advertisements either supporting or opposing some of his policies.

In the near future, we will begin a project where students can work alone or with 1-2 partners of their choice. I encourage you to discuss this with your children and make sure that they make

the best decision for themselves and their work style. Additionally, I will speak with the classes about making sure they pick someone with a similar work ethic and someone who will encourage them to do their best instead of someone who might be a distraction.

Please let me know if you have any questions. Have a great weekend!

### **April 12, 2024**

This week we finished our DBQ outlines, played review games, took an assessment and watched some of the musical Hamilton. Next week we will begin our unit on the Bill of Rights. Please let me know if you have any questions.

### **March 28, 2024**

Recently in social studies, students completed a "one pager" about the Constitution and I loved being able to see their artistic side! A day students completed a checks and balances escape room and B day students have been working on a DBQ. After break, those assignments will switch and A day will do either DBQ and B day will do the escape room and other review activities.

On 4/11 (A day) and 4/12 (B day), students will have an assessment that includes the Constitution, branches of government and separation of powers. There has been a study guide on google classroom since February for the students to complete as they work through the unit. We will continue to review in class and play a review game before the assessment.

I hope everyone has a wonderful spring break! Please let me know if you have any questions.

### **February 23, 2024**

This week in Social Studies we examined the Articles of Confederation and Shay's Rebellion. We ended the week with an introductory lesson on the Constitutional Convention. Students will be having an assessment on this material the week of Monday, March 4th.

Please let me know if you have any questions. Have a great weekend!

### **February 9, 2024**

This week in social studies we explored the Declaration of Independence by analyzing the text, completing a puzzle, watching humorous videos and writing a breakup letter to King George III from the perspective of a colonist. The students had a lot of fun writing their break up letters and had me laughing out loud while I was grading them.

If you have any questions, please let me know. I hope you and your family have a wonderful weekend!

### **January 18, 2024**

I am sending my weekly update a little earlier than usual because the weather for tomorrow looks questionable. This week I saw A day students once and B day students once.

During that one classblock, we revised and finalized our DBQ essays and started part 2 of Hamilton.

Next week we will switch gears for a little bit and learn about the Holocaust and the conditions that led to WWII. I am going to be providing students with the historical context necessary for them to understand their work with Holocaust related texts in LA.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

### **January 8, 2024**

Last week in social studies we reviewed how to analyze a primary source document and previewed some of the documents for our upcoming DBQ. DBQ assignments require students to analyze several primary sources on the same topic and then respond to a writing prompt. We will continue working on the documents this week and will begin our essay later in the week.

High school recommendation forms will be coming home soon and I would like to explain next year's social studies course offerings before you receive the recommendations. US 1 Honors is not an offered course. Instead, incoming freshman can be recommended for AP US1 and AP US 2. AP US history is a 10 credit course for students in grade 10. The course covers the US1 and US2 requirements. Students who take AP US history will take a history elective freshman year.

By recommending a student for AP history, it would alter the course of their history requirements for their high school career. As a result, I only recommended students for AP if I felt extremely confident that they could transition successfully into an AP course by sophomore year. There may be students with an A average who did not get recommended for AP. Having an A average in an 8<sup>th</sup> grade level class does not mean they will be successful in a college level course by sophomore year. I want students to be at the level they will find the most success and happiness. Transitioning to high school is a major adjustment and I want to ensure students do not experience additional stress by taking a course that may be too advanced for them. With that said... the decision is ultimately up to you and your family. If you or your child feels they would be most successful in the US 1 & US 2 AP course, then I recommend you reach out to the high school social studies supervisor to further discuss. Please let me know if you have any questions

### **December 15, 2023**

Students have been continuing to work on their Netflix projects which are due 12/20 (a day) and 12/21 (b day). This project is worth 55 points and is one of the biggest assignments of the trimester. They will have one more class block to work on the assignment, but please remind your children to work on these at home if they are not on track to be finished by the due date. Please let me know if you have any questions.

### **December 8, 2023**

This week in social studies we started each class with a mini lesson on topics including analyzing primary sources and understanding an author's perspective. After the mini lesson, students had the rest of class to work on their Netflix projects. These projects will be due on

12/20 and 12/21. Students will continue to have mini lessons during social studies and any remaining time will be dedicated to working on their projects. Please let me know if you have any questions.

### **November 30, 2023**

Today and tomorrow students are beginning a project in social studies class. This is a Netflix themed project and the students have had so much fun working on this in the past! This project is worth 55 points and will be the first major assessment of the second trimester.

The students are allowed to work independently, in pairs or in groups of three of their choice. I will speak to the students about the importance of choosing a partner or group that will help them be most successful. I will remind students that they can work with their friends during class time, but still submit separate assignments so that they have more autonomy over the final project. Please also discuss this with your child at home. While A day students did start the project today, it is not too late for them to choose to work independently if that is what you as a family decide is best.

The project is a Netflix project where the students will create a fictional tv series about the causes of the American Revolution. They will be creating a show title, series summary, series trailer, eight episode titles and summaries, and some more creative details. As I track the student's progress, I will set a final due date. I am anticipating that the due date will be sometime during the week of 12/11.

Please let me know if you have any questions!

### **November 17, 2023**

We have been continuing to review the causes of the American Revolution and examine them from different perspectives. Students started a "Towards Independence" packet in class and have to complete the rest for homework. There will be an assessment on the causes of the American Revolution on 11/28 (A day) and 11/29 (B day). The assessment will be all multiple choice and the students have a study guide on google classroom that we will be working on in class soon.

Please let me know if you have any questions. Have a great weekend!

### **October 27, 2023**

This week in social studies we explored the regional identities of the thirteen colonies as well what life was like in the colonies. On Monday 10/30 (A day) and Tuesday 10/31 (B day) students will have a 15 question multiple choice quiz on the regions of the colonies. There is a study prep sheet on google classroom that explains what students should review to prepare and gives a sample question to help them understand the format.

Please let me know if you have any questions. Have a wonderful weekend!

### **October 20, 2023**

This week in social studies we started out with a DBQ (document based question) "glow up". Students participated in an activity where they pretended to be the teacher and graded anonymous hook/leads and thesis statements from the opening benchmark we did in early September. Once students became comfortable using the rubric and analyzing the scoring system, they looked back at their DBQ essay and gave it a "glow up".

After our DBQ assignment, we did an end of unit mini project where students made trading cards for a historical figure of their choice.

At the end of the week we started to preview our unit on the English colonies. Students will have a 15 question multiple choice quiz on the colonies and their regions on 10/30 (A day) and 10/31 (B day).

If you have any questions, please let me know.  
I hope you and your families have a wonderful weekend! :)

### **October 12, 2023**

This week the students presented their Columbus trial projects and overall, they did a fantastic job! Public speaking is a hard skill to master, but most students enthusiastically shared their group's work using websites, google slides, visual aids and skits that they created. By the end of the day today, Columbus trial grades will be in genesis and students will have their rubrics back.

Students had their first homework assignment this week and that will also be entered into genesis by the end of the day. I do not give homework frequently, but when I do, it is important that students make an effort to complete it in a timely manner. Missing even just one homework assignment can have a negative impact on a student's overall average. I will accept this assignment late, but students will lose points for every day that it is late.

After our Columbus trial presentations, we began DBQ "glow ups". During our glow ups, students worked on improving key points of their DBQ benchmark essay from the start of the school year. We started by revising our hook/lead and next week we will continue the glow up by revising our thesis statements.

If you have any questions, please let me know. I hope you have a wonderful weekend!

### **October 6, 2023**

This week in social studies students worked on their Columbus trial project. Presentations for the Columbus trial are 10/10 (A day) and 10/11 (B day). Students have worked really hard on this assignment over the last few class blocks and I cannot wait to hear their final presentations!

If you have any questions, please let me know.

### **September 29, 2023**

This week students met with their groups for the Columbus project and began working on their research and completing graphic organizers. I assigned groups who they were in charge of defending and all groups have selected who they are going to blame instead. Next week students will have class time to work on their defense statement, blame statement and presentation. The final due date for the assignment is 10/10 (A day) and 10/11 (B day).

Thank you so much to everyone who attended back to school night last night! If you were unable to attend, please let me know if you have any questions or would like to touch base.

Have a wonderful weekend!

### **September 22, 2023**

This week in social studies class we completed a benchmark DBQ (document based questions) assessment. This initial DBQ benchmark is used to assess your child's current ability to analyze primary and secondary source documents and use what they learn to write an essay. This is something we will work on throughout the course of the school year and students will continue doing this type of work in high school as well.

Yesterday and today we started reviewing the background information and directions for our upcoming project. Students will be working in assigned groups, but they will receive individual grades. In order to monitor group contributions, every class we will track what each student was in charge of for the day and the progress that they made. The project requires students to pretend to be the attorneys for one of the groups being blamed for the death of the Tainos people. The group will create a written defense statement, a presentation of their innocence and a statement of blame where they pick another group to hold responsible for the crime. This project will officially begin next week and continue into the week after.

If you have any questions, please let me know. Have a great weekend!

### **September 13, 2023**

My name is Megan Julian and I will be your child's 8th grade social studies teacher. I will be sending weekly email updates to provide you with information about what is happening in our classes and any upcoming assignments. I know 8th grade students can be reluctant to share information about their school days and I hope these email updates will provide you with some talking points.

In social studies so far we have done several ice breakers, reviewed classroom procedures, and covered the events of September 11th using a variety of primary sources. Students had an unofficial homework assignment which was to ask you to share your story from 9/11 and what your experiences were that day. If your child forgot to ask you, and you are willing to share that information, please share your story with them tonight.

In class today (a day) and tomorrow (b day) students are working on an "All about me" assignment. Any students who did not finish this in class should complete it at home and ensure

it is turned in on google classroom by 8am the day it is due. For *a day* students it is due Friday 9/15 and for *b day* students it is due Monday 9/18.

If you are receiving this email and do not wish to be on the distribution list or if you have any other email addresses that you would like me to add, please let me know.

I am looking forward to working with you and your child this school year. Please let me know if you have any questions.

## **May 16**

The students will continue to work on their leadership projects for the rest of the week and presentations will begin 5/23 (b day) and 5/24 (a day). Any students who are not finished with the project during the allotted class time will have to finish it at home. I also recommend that students practice presenting at home in front of an audience of their friends or family to get used to what it feels like speaking in front of others. This project can be a challenge for some students because of its open-ended nature, but I am so proud of the creativity and hard work that I have seen thus far. Please let me know if you have any questions.

## **May 8**

Last week we covered some of the highlights of the presidencies of Jefferson and Madison including the Louisiana Purchase and the War of 1812. Now that the students are familiar with the leadership style of some of the early presidents of the US, we will be comparing and contrasting them. Ultimately, students will be designing their own ideal leader by creating a project that shows what qualities they think a good leader should possess, how leadership can be shown on a large scale and on a small scale, and explaining why leadership is important in a democratic society. The final project for this assignment can be presented in any format besides an essay or a PowerPoint. Examples of leadership projects in the past include songs, advertisements, commercials, videos, plays, board games, card games, children's books and websites. As long as the students meet the criteria in their checklist and follow the goals on the rubric, they can be as creative as possible with this. This project will continue through this week and next week during testing and should be completed mostly in school.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

## **April 21**

This week we continued our leadership unit by further examining the leadership styles of Washington, Hamilton and Jefferson. Next week we will begin looking at the leadership style of John Adams and exploring some of the challenges he faced as president. Please let me know if you have any questions.

## **April 4**

This week in social studies we began our leadership unit by examining George Washington and his presidency. Students participated in an interactive simulation where they pretended to be Washington and explored four examples of challenging situations he faced as a

leader. After break we will continue the leadership unit by analyzing the leadership style of other presidents.

I hope everyone has a wonderful spring break!

### **March 21**

Last week in social studies class, students used their knowledge of the Bill of Rights to create a fictional playlist. Each of the ten songs in the playlist corresponded to the first ten amendments. Students created a fictional song title, artist name and album name. Additionally, students used images to create album art for the assignment. The students did a wonderful job and were really creative with their songs.

This week we are working on a DBQ (document based questions). On day 1, DBQs ask students to analyze primary source documents on a specific topic and respond to questions about the documents. On day 2, students will use the information from the documents to respond to an essay prompt. Students must use the information from the documents as evidence for their claims in the essay. The essay prompt is, "How does the Constitution guard against tyranny?".

Next week on 3/28 (a day) and 3/29 (b day), students will have a quiz on the Bill of Rights. There is a study guide available for them on google classroom.

### **March 9**

This week students have been examining the Bill of Rights and then applying their knowledge to analyze landmark court cases. Students were very engaged in this activity and did a great job discussing and debating.

Just a reminder that trimester 2 ends on March 14th and I will accept missing assignments for partial credit up until March 13th.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

### **February 27**

I hope you and your families have a wonderful weekend! Just a reminder that students have an assessment this week on 3/1 (a day) and 3/2 (b day). Students will also be working on a "one pager" which is an assignment that allows students to use both visual symbols and important words to clearly and concisely share their reflections from what they have learned. The one pager will be done in class, but any students who need extra time can take it home to complete it. The one pager is due 3/3 (a day) and 3/6 (b day).

Please let me know if you have any questions.

### **February 21**

This week in social studies we will be reviewing the branches of government, checks and balances and principles of the Constitution. Students will continue to work on their study guides

and review for their assessment next week on 3/1 (a day) and 3/2 (b day). Please let me know if you have any questions.

## **February 12**

This week in social studies class we finished our mini unit on the Holocaust and the students are prepared with the background knowledge they will need for their LA Holocaust units.

Additionally, students began a project where they created a digital trading card for a person in history. Trading cards are due 2/13 (a day) and 2/14 (b day). Next week we will be finishing our unit on the structure of the American government. Please let me know if you have any questions.

I hope you and your families have a wonderful weekend!

## **January 30**

This week we are continuing to study the Holocaust. On 2/3 (A day) and 2/2 (B day), students have two assignments due. The first assignment is the final portion of our Hamilton questions. This has been completed in class and a majority of students have already turned in their work. For any students who were absent or needed extra time, they can finish it at home and submit it on the date above. The second assignment is a writing prompt about the social, political and economic factors that led to the Holocaust. Please let me know if you have any questions.

## **January 25**

This week the ratification ads for the Constitution were due and students did a wonderful job on them! For the next week and a half, we will be taking a break from our studies of the Constitution and focusing on the causes of the Holocaust. In the next few weeks, students will be reading about the Holocaust in Language Arts class. My goal is to provide them with the background information necessary to understand the historical context of the material they will be reading in LA. The main question we will be focusing on is, "What political, social and economic conditions led to the Holocaust?". Please let me know if you have any questions.

## **January 17**

This week in social studies we will be discussing the Constitutional Convention. Students will be exploring the decisions that our founding fathers had to make while trying to create the Constitution. We will be looking at the perspective of Federalists and Anti-Federalists and discussing the beliefs of both sides. After that, students will write a paragraph about the ratification of the Constitution from each perspective. Next, students will choose one side and create an advertisement for or against ratification. This assignment is due 1/23 for b day students and 1/24 for a day students. Please let me know if you have any questions.

## **January 3**

I hope everyone had a wonderful holiday and happy New Year! In social studies this week we are learning about the Declaration of Independence. Students will be writing a break

up letter from the colonists to King George III and outlining the reasons why the relationship between the two is no longer working. This assignment is due 1/9 for a day students and 1/20 for b day students. Please let me know if you have any questions.

## **December 16**

This week we completed presentations of the Netflix projects and they were awesome! Additionally, we have been listening to some songs from the musical Hamilton that relate to our curriculum. Students have to respond to prompts about these songs and that assignment is due 12/22 (a day) and 12/23 (b day). This work has been completed in class, but if a student was absent for part of the assignment or needs help, they have until the end of next week. Starting next week we will begin working on the topics of the Declaration of Independence and the battles of the American Revolution. Please let me know if you have any questions.

## **November 28**

Later this week students will be starting a group project where they create their own Netflix series about the causes of the American Revolution. While students will not actually film the episodes, they will create a show title and summary, episode titles and summaries, use images, critic reviews, etc. to describe the events we have discussed in class. I am really looking forward to this project and seeing how creative our students can be.

Choosing groups- The students will be allowed to choose if they would like to work independently or in groups of two or three. If the students choose to work in a group, they will get to pick their partners. As always I will discuss with students the importance of choosing partners who have a similar work ethic either as them and someone they think they will be successful working with. If as a family you feel that your child might do better working independently, please discuss that with them this evening before we start choosing partners.

## **November 21**

Tuesday and Wednesday students will be receiving a study guide to help them prepare for an upcoming social studies quiz. The quiz will be 11/30 (a day) and 12/1 (b day). The quiz is 20 multiple choice questions about the causes of the American Revolution. In addition to the study guide, we have been and will continue to play review games to help the students prepare. Please let me know if you have any questions.

I hope everyone has a wonderful Thanksgiving!

## **November 14**

I had a great first week and loved meeting the students on team 8-3! This week we are starting on a new unit on the causes of the American Revolution and will be focusing on two essential questions:

1. What political and economic factors led to the American Revolution?
  2. How was the relationship between Britain and the Colonies changed as a result of taxation?
- If you have any questions, please let me know!

### **November 7th**

We are wrapping up colony projects and will begin discussing the causes of the American Revolution including the Boston Tea Party, Boston Massacre and various taxes that were implemented.