

Dear Parent or Guardian,

In United States History Studies Since 1877, which is the second part of a two-year study that begins in Grade 8, students study the history of the United States from 1877 to the present. The course content is based on the founding documents of the U.S. government, which provide a framework for its heritage. Historical content focuses on the political, economic, and social events and issues related to industrialization and urbanization, major wars, domestic and foreign policies, and reform movements, including civil rights. Students examine the impact of geographic factors on major events and eras and analyze their causes and effects. Students examine the impact of constitutional issues on American society, evaluate the dynamic relationship of the three branches of the federal government, and analyze efforts to expand the democratic process. Students describe the relationship between the arts and popular culture and the times during which they were created. Students analyze the impact of technological innovations on American life. Students use critical-thinking skills and a variety of primary and secondary source material to explain and apply different methods that historians use to understand and interpret the past, including multiple points of view and historical context.

U.S. History students are required to pass the State of Texas Assessments of Academic Readiness (STAAR) End- of-Course (EOC) U.S. History exam to meet part of the graduation requirements.

**6th Six Weeks Overview**

For the 1st six weeks students will be finishing the New Millennium Unit. During the 2nd and 3rd weeks of the six weeks grading period, students will be engaged in reviewing Units 1 through 13 in preparation for the U.S. History End-of-Course Exam, to be administered during the week of May 3rd. Following this exam, students will be engaged in preparation for senior level social studies courses (government and economics) as well as Final Exams, to be administered the last week of the six weeks.

**Student Assessment**

Throughout the 6th Six Weeks, student knowledge and understanding will be assessed in a variety of ways, such as:

* Interacting with Academic Vocabulary
* Thinking Maps and Graphic Organizers
* Student Collaborative Learning
* Quick Writes
* Think/Pair/Share
* Use of Stems for Writing
* Peer Tutoring
* Identify Bias in History (Interpretation)
* Connection to Future Historical Events and Present Situations
* Skills Practice (Maps, Charts, Graphs)
* Collaborative Small and Large Group Discussions (Socratic Seminars)
* Document Analysis of Primary and Secondary Sources (Historiography)
* Critical Listening and Note Taking/Summarizing (Cornell Notes)
* Critical Questioning
* Mental Mapping – geographical awareness
* Formative and Summative Assessments (including analysis of released STAAR questions)
* Project based research/projects

Please feel free to contact us if you have any questions or concerns regarding your student. We look forward to working with you and your child to ensure academic success.

Respectfully,

U.S. History Teachers