



EAGLE MOUNTAIN SAGINAW ISD

Fostering a Culture of Excellence

Dear Parent or Guardian,

In Grade 8, students study the history of the United States from the early colonial period through Reconstruction. The knowledge and skills in this section comprise the first part of a two-year study of U.S. history. The content in Grade 8 builds upon that from Grade 5 but provides more depth and breadth. Historical content focuses on the political, economic, religious, and social events and issues related to the colonial and revolutionary eras, the creation and ratification of the U.S. Constitution, challenges of the early republic, the Age of Jackson, westward expansion, sectionalism, Civil War, and Reconstruction. Students describe the physical characteristics of the United States and their impact on population distribution and settlement patterns in the past and present. Students use critical-thinking skills, including the identification of bias in written, oral, and visual material. The students will use of a variety of rich primary and secondary source material such as the complete text of the U.S. Constitution and the Declaration of Independence, landmark cases of the U.S. Supreme Court, biographies, autobiographies, novels, speeches, letters, diaries, poetry, songs, and artworks.

During the first six weeks grading period, students will be engaged in course work over the following units of study:

Exploration & Colonization: This unit focuses on the English exploration and establishment of the Original Thirteen Colonies, beginning with Jamestown.

American Revolution: This unit analyzes causation, conflict and leadership in regard to the American Revolution. Students will study the Declaration of Independence and identify the important ideas and the role of this document in the foundation of our country.

Celebrate Freedom Week will take place during the first six weeks and the students will be exposed to the intent, meaning, and importance of the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution including the Bill of Rights, in their historical contexts.

Throughout the first six weeks grading period, student knowledge and understanding will be assessed in a variety of ways, such as:

- Analyzing past STAAR questions
- Analyzing Primary & Secondary sources
- Comparing and Contrasting Point of View
- Engaging in Pair/Share
- Engaging in Peer Tutoring
- Engaging in student collaborative learning
- Evaluating impact of selected landmark Supreme Court decisions
- Explaining Political, Economic and Social roots of Historical periods
- Identifying bias in History
- Interacting with Academic Vocabulary
- Making connections between different groups
- Making connections to Future Historical Events and Present Situations
- Marking the text

- Taking Cornell Notes
- Taking Formative & Summative Assessments
- Using Thinking Maps and Graphic Organizers

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, United States History until 1877 Teachers