



“We should not look back unless it is to derive useful lessons from the past errors, and for the purpose of profiting by dearly bought experience.

–George Washington

Dear Students and Families:

Welcome to the 8<sup>th</sup> grade and the final year of middle school! We will be exploring and studying key people, events and ideas of pre and early U.S. History. To be successful in this class, students will need to actively participate and be responsible for their own learning. To help our student succeed, **please review their agenda daily.**

### 2019-2020 Course Syllabus

**Instructor:** Mr. Byron R. Taylor, 3<sup>rd</sup> Period Prep, Room 4

**Course Title:** Social Studies 8<sup>th</sup> grade- Early U.S. History

**Course Textbook:** *American History: Beginnings Through Reconstruction* (Pearson Learning, 2016)

**Course Description:** This is a mandatory course designed for students to explore and study the history of the United States from the periods of exploration and colonization through the Civil War and Reconstruction. Eighth grade Social Studies Performance Standards (History, Geography, Civics and Government, and Economics) will be included in this course.

**Course Objective:** Students will complete historical readings, projects and assignments designed to improve skills in comprehension, listening, reading, writing, speaking, researching, creativity and critical thinking.

**Course Goal:** The goal of this class is to advance student understanding of our world’s early history and how it relates to our present society, please see quote at the top of the page. We will also be taking the 8<sup>th</sup> Grade End-of-Course (EOC) this year. Our goal is to show great success on this test.

**Periods Taught:** 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup>.

**Grading Policy:** Students will be graded on a point system. Homework/Classwork-50%, Tests/Quizzes-40%, Attendance/Participation 10%.

**Grading Scale:**

100-90 = A	69-60 = D
89-80 = B	59 – 0 = F
79–70 = C	

*Students are required to have parent/guardian signatures on any assignments, tests, or projects that receive a grade of D or F. Students are also to have parent/guardian signatures on grade reports. All papers with parent/guardian signatures are to be returned to Mr. Taylor.*

**Homework:** Assignments not completed in class may be considered homework unless they are due the day they were assigned; homework is due the next day, unless specified otherwise. Additional homework and projects will be assigned. **Project assignments are required to have parent/guardian signatures indicating awareness of the project and the due date.**

**Homework is due on the ascribed due date, completed and ready to be turned in at the beginning of class.** Any assignment not turned in on time, for any reason, will be given a 0 until made-up.

No extra credit work will be given.

A **project** not turned in on the assigned due **date will lose one full letter grade for each day it is late-** (exceptions MAY apply – contact me ASAP)! **Homework and projects WILL NOT be accepted on a computer disk/CD/DVD!** (They are often not compatible with the school computers). Hard copies or, if absent, send to [btaylor@paparts.net](mailto:btaylor@paparts.net) This address is for homework only and as a failsafe. If there are computer/printer issues at home students may try alternative areas such as public libraries, for profit businesses, a friends computer/printer or ...

**Absences and make-up work:** In accordance with PAPA policy, make-up work will only be accepted for **excused** absences. Students will be allowed one day for each day missed. **It is the students' responsibility to make-up missed work.** There is a class agenda book for students to check to see what was missed. Assignments for **unexcused** absences cannot be made up. All missing work, whether absence related or not, will receive a 0 until turned in to Mr. Taylor.

Class Rules: In accordance with the PAPA Middle School policy, the Class Rules are as follows:

**1. Be Prompt 2. Be Prepared 3. Be Productive 4. Be Positive 5. Be Polite 6. Be Safe 7. Be Here**

These are simple rules and we will discuss them further in class to make sure everyone is exactly sure what is expected. There are no routine class breaks and students are not allowed to eat food in class unless provided by the teacher or for special occasions with teacher permission. Only water in closable containers are allowed in class.

**Class materials;** Students are required to have a black or blue pen or a pencil, their class binder(1 ½ - 2 inch three ring binder), and paper with them daily.

Each student is expected to keep their notebook organized, keeping homework is strongly recommended. Each student will have a textbook assigned to them and will need to bring it to class and take it home as necessary.

Additional class items may be needed for projects and will be discussed at a later date. Students will need to provide materials for their individual and group projects.

Backpacks must be placed on the sides of the room in an organized manner, also no large gear bags are allowed in class.

**Teaching Styles:** I strive to use the three Ds: Directing – promotes learning through listening and following directions, Discussing – promotes learning through interaction, and Delegating-promotes learning through empowerment. I also use Bloom's Taxonomy, <https://lib.guides.umd.edu/c.php?g=598357&p=4142337> and Webb's Depth of Knowledge, <http://inservice.ascd.org/what-exactly-is-depth-of-knowledge-hint-its-not-a-wheel/>, to help guide my questioning and testing.

**State Standards and Benchmarks:** Here is a link to our state standards-

<http://www.ped.state.nm.us/standards/Social%20Studies/Social%20Studies%209-12.pdf>.

**CONTACT:** My preferred method of contact is via the school email: [BTaylor@paparts.org](mailto:BTaylor@paparts.org); This is due to agendas are sometimes lost or misplaced and to maintain confidentiality. I will usually respond within 24 hours unless I am out or it is the weekend. Please contact me if you have any questions or concerns.

# **Student + Parent/Guardian + Teacher = Success**

**Working together we can turn dreams into goals and goals into success.**

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Section:** \_\_\_\_\_

## **Early U.S. History**

Please sign and return by \_\_\_\_\_ for participation points.

**I have read and understand Mr. Taylor's 2019-2020 course syllabus and requirements for 8<sup>th</sup> grade early U.S. History class.**

Student's name (please print) \_\_\_\_\_

Student's signature \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian's name (please print) \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian's signature \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Home phone number: \_\_\_\_\_

Work phone number: \_\_\_\_\_

Cell phone number: \_\_\_\_\_

Please indicate the best number and times to reach you.

Home address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Additional information regarding our student: