

## YOU'RE FINALLY HERE! WELCOME!

**Synopsis** 8th grade social studies is the study of American History from its European origins, beginning with the English settlement of Jamestown in 1607, and continuing through the end of the post Civil War Reconstruction in 1877. The ultimate goal of this course is to have students prepared for the rigor of high school US History classes, and to perform their very best on the SS STAAR Test. I also emphasize that students discover connections between history and the present day. Whether it is politics, economics, or history, our class becomes exciting when students are involved in and making these connections.

**Textbook:** Students will use a variety of resources to complement the district adopted textbook, such as primary sources, literary selections, newspapers, and the Internet. Their textbook, History Alive! The United States Through Industrialism, is available online at:

[www.teachTci.com](http://www.teachTci.com) Login information will be provided by Mr. Shane for digital access.

**BYOD:** *Students are encouraged to use electronic devices in class at Mr. Shane's discretion.* It is understood that technology and social media can and will be a distraction. It is extremely important that each of us does our best to remain respectful as learners and digital citizens. There will be consequences if the technology disrupts the learning environment, either your own personal learning environment or the learning environment of those around you.

**Project Based Learning** This year we will be incorporating an innovative educational approach called Project Based Learning. Within a PBL model, students are guided by instructors towards making significant discoveries resulting in projects based upon the student's passions. Instructors will facilitate projects to enrich content knowledge.

### **Grading procedures:**

- 30% formative assessment **MINOR GRADES** (ISN entries; classwork, short quizzes, reading checks)
- 70% summative assessment **MAJOR GRADES** (tests, major quizzes, projects, group presentations)
- On average, two grades per week will be taken

**Supplies:** Many of the materials needed on a daily basis were listed on the SSMS 8th grade supply list. Students in my class will be maintaining an Interactive Notebook in a marble composition notebook. It will be an ongoing project all year long and will be a source of daily grades. Students will need **play doh** for an activity about Jamestown. Students will be required to have posterboard for projects as required. Students should bring headphones to class for use at the teacher's discretion.

**Staying in touch:** Please keep informed about class requirements on my web page.

<http://danshane2.wixsite.com/mysite-1> Each student will have access to Google Classroom. Class codes will be available once school begins.

Close-Up Field Trip to Washington DC and Williamsburg is May 20th to May 24th.

Please see Mr. Shane for trip details.

<http://www.closeup.org/>