

An Introduction to...

United States History



7th & 8th Grade Social Studies
Mr. Burd
Prattsburgh Central School
2019-2020

Our Challenge promises to be an exciting and rewarding experience for each student. This handout is designed to introduce 7th and 8th grade families to our program. You will want to keep it for reference because it contains important information about our program.

Please read this booklet over carefully with your 7th or 8th grader. They should be able to answer any questions you may have, but if they can't, please call me at (607) 522-3795 or e-mail me at burdb@prattsburghcsd.org

I look forward to working with you and your student this year!!!

Mr. Burd

An Introduction to 7th and 8th Grade Social Studies

Let me introduce myself...

Since we will be working together during the year, it is important that we get to know each other. My name is Mr. Burd, and I teach 7th, 8th, 11th and 12th grade Social Studies. This is my 18th year teaching at Prattsburgh and I am very excited at opportunity to work with each of you.

What this is all about...

The 7th and 8th grade United States history is a two year program that will cover all of American history from the beginning of time to present day. In 7th grade, students will study the beginning of US History to the Civil War and the 8th graders will study Reconstruction to the present day.

Our Grading System...

Students will have both reading and writing assignments supportive of the revised New York State social studies and language arts standards. It is imperative that these assignments are read or written in a timely fashion. The grading system will be based on the following:

Tests/Quizzes	45%
Homework/Projects	40%
Attendance/Class participation	15%

Tests/Quizzes

At the completion of each chapter the students will have a test and they will also have a final test or project at the completion of the year. Throughout the school year we will have short quizzes and sometimes these quizzes will be a surprise.

Homework/Projects

Homework will be assigned often and will sometimes be collected without warning. Throughout the school year the students will be assigned projects. Technology will be an integral component of our classroom. These projects will be weighed more heavily than homework and will depend on the particular project.

Attendance/Class Participation

In order to learn the material, the students must be in class. **If a student misses class it is his/her responsibility to get the assignments and make up the work.**

You can keep track of your student's grade and progress by:

1. Checking the progress reports every 3 weeks
2. Requesting extra progress reports
3. Examining report card grades and comments every 6 weeks
4. Monitoring homework and papers brought home
5. Calling or visiting me at school
6. Discussing the class with you student
7. No electronic devices unless approved by the instructor.

Some F.A.Qs (Frequently Asked Questions)

How can my student get extra help when they need it?

Students need to take responsibility of asking for extra help. Our classes do provide for some individual attention during class, but it is extremely important students to be willing to stay after school for extra help needed. If after school is impossible, we could also arrange to meet before school starts or during my preparation time. I will also be available 1st and 8th period each day.

Do you offer extra credit?

Yes! There are several ways to earn extra credit. Extra credit is often given as "prizes" in classroom games and competition. It can also be earned by students designing a bulletin board, making a poster or PowerPoint presentation for the material we are studying. I will not give students extra credit in the last week of a grading period.

Hints for Success

1. Communication is important. Both you and your student should see me about **ANY** concerns and questions.
2. We all should be lifetime learners. We must take an active interest in the world around us and be ready to apply our skills and knowledge to new situations. This is something that we must do - teachers, parents and students.
3. Give your BEST effort!!!