About 7th Grade Social Studies

**Class Structure**

My goal for our year in Social Studies is to help students become compassionate, aware, and learned citizens of the world. Students are encouraged to ask questions, as they are just entering a difficult-to-navigate political-social world. Our lessons will usually be accompanied by in-class activities that bring historical topics to life. We will have regular assignments that connect our topics to current events and to our lives. Students will also have quarterly projects related to our topics. We will have regular quizzes and tests over material, usually with about a week’s notice.

**Texts**

We will be using our class textbooks, but they will be supplemented by articles and internet research done by students. Along with this, we will be looking into the validity of sources, especially when it comes to acclaimed “news” or “informational” websites.

**Topics**

In class, we will be going over the following topics:

* Map skills and GPS
* Propaganda and its place in history as well as our current world
* Native American culture and history (pre-colonialism)
* Colonialism and the settlement of the Americas
* The 13 Colonies and pre-American era
* The Revolutionary War
* The foundations of America, its laws, its government, and its financial system (The Articles of Confederation, the Constitution, etc.)
* Westward Expansion
* Pre-Civil War Era
* Personal Finance