



US History - Grades 5-8
Mondays 10-11am
Course Instructor: Melissa Joseph
Phone Number: 952-797-2458
Email: MelissaJoseph1018@gmail.com

****For quickest response please text, I'm happy to return text or set up a call. I am also stationed at the front table when I am not teaching.****

Course Description: In this course we will dive into US History as the US Grows Its Identity after the Revolutionary War. We begin learning about liberty and justice for all, move into pioneers spreading across the US by way of wagon, look into the relationship between the North and the South, and touch on the division of the US. Next we move into the start of the Civil War where we will take several weeks to dig in, learn about Harriet Tubman, reconstruction and reconciliation, Clara Barton and more!

Each week we will include Note-booking what we learned, students will experience oral narration and a radio style drama, work on mapping, and learn new vocabulary. Small writing activities that build through the unit are also a part of this semester.

Scope and Sequence: Please see the attached page for themes, topics, and biblical context that will be covered this semester.

Supplies: Please send your student to class with writing and coloring supplies. A scissors is also very helpful. Finally your text and project supplies are covered by the supply fee you paid at registration. The first day of class your student will receive a textbook and folder that needs to come to class each week. This class is graded with traditional letter grades. Please reach out if you have any questions or concerns!

Homework: There will be homework most weeks to engage students to continue learning at home, prepare them for the next weeks topic so they can engage with the class, and broaden skills. Most weeks homework will include any areas of the textbook that are not finished in class (this is typically no more than 20 min for the week.) Along with a worksheet, or crafty learning activity that ties into the lesson. The first week I will send home a recommended reading list - there are lots of choices, do not be overwhelmed. These are books that will be age appropriate and grabbing a few from the library now and then will round out your students history for the semester. For those that are not avid readers, at times there will be recommended videos from both YouTube

and Historical Societies and Museums. Each week your student returns their homework to class then will receive a punch on their history punch card. Once they have earned 5 punched they get to pick a small treat or trinket from my prize bin. Each book from the recommended reading list, or coordinating documentary that a student reads/watches and completes a one page report can be turned in for extra credit.

Quizzes will be oral, take place during class, and be a fun trivia style class effort. My goal is for the students to learn history in a fun and interactive way, not to have them worry or stress about tests. In lue of a test your student will have an end of year project that will involve choosing a person, place, or topic we learned about during the semester. At home they will research this topic, write a one page report, and create a visual aid to present to their peers on the last day of the semester. This project is worth 30% of their final grade, 10% each for the paper, oral presentation, and visual aid. They will receive instructions a moan before the end of the semester and be encouraged and reminded each week to continue making progress.

Looking forward to a great semester!

Melissa Joseph