

River Heights Intermediate School

8th Grade U.S. History Syllabus

Mr. Taylor

Dear Parents/Guardians and Students,

I would like to welcome everyone to a new and exciting school year. My main goal is to help every student achieve academic success in a healthy and engaging environment. The standards for this course are outlined by the California Department of Education. My intent is to challenge each student to do his/her best by utilizing various teaching strategies and activities designed to promote higher levels of thinking and awareness. Students will develop a sense of appreciation and respect for the development of the U.S. civilization while understanding how history constantly affects our future.

Curriculum (Standards in parentheses)

Our focus this year will include the Founding of the Nation (8.1), the U.S. Constitution (8.2), American Political System (8.3), American Ideals (8.4), Early Republic & Foreign Policy (8.5), American People of the North, South, and West (8.6, 8.7, & 8.8), Abolition of Slavery (8.9), Civil War (8.10), Reconstruction (8.11), and the Industrial Revolution (8.12)

Classroom Rules

1. Be in your seat, with your materials ready, *when* the bell rings.
2. Raise your hand and wait to be recognized when asking a question or contributing to class discussion.
3. Remain in your seat until given permission to leave your seat.
4. Have a positive attitude and try your best daily. (It really works!)
5. Always ask questions if something is unclear.

Consequences for inappropriate behavior

1. Verbal warning and discipline writing assignment.
2. ACP- Alternative Classroom Placement and parent contact.
3. Parent contact and after school detention.
4. Saturday school
5. Referral to administration for possible at-home suspension.

*Note: Any of these may be necessarily used if the situation calls for it.

Rewards

1. **HERO** Points
2. Praise from Mr. Taylor.
3. Positive notes/calls to student's homes.

Assignments

1. Homework and class work assignments are written on the board everyday. Each student is responsible for writing the assignments down in their planner.
2. Each student is responsible for **completing and submitting** all assignments on their due dates.
3. Each student is responsible for completing any missing assignments due to absence or illness. I will not seek out students with their missing work.
4. All assignments will be readily available. Just ask for them at appropriate times.
5. Homework is due ***every Friday***, unless otherwise specified.

Grade Weighting and Scale

Tests & Quizzes	35%	90%-100%---A
Class work & Participation	35%	80%-89%---- B
Projects	20%	70%-79%---- C
Homework	10%	60%-69%---- D
		Below 60%-- F

Grades are update weekly and are available to view on ParentConnection

Parent Communication

I am always eager to speak with parents and appreciate parent involvement in their child’s education. You may e-mail me at kataylor@cnusd.k12.ca.us . I check my e-mail daily, and it is the quickest way for me to respond to your concerns. Students are expected to check on my **CANVAS** page for assignments and PDF versions of classroom lecture notes (Part of **MYCNUSD** students have access to). I also do have a website with a wealth of information for you and you student: <http://keithataylorclass.pbworks.com> . In addition I also have a Homework Blog: <https://mistertaylorhw.wordpress.com> . I am available to speak with you in person before school or after school by appointment. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions or concerns. I am looking forward to helping your student face the challenges of 8th grade and help them achieve.

Thank You,
Keith Taylor

(Detach and return)

Please sign and return this portion when you have read and reviewed the class syllabus with your student.

Student Signature _____ Parent Signature _____

Period # _____