

**8<sup>th</sup> Grade Social Studies Information 2019-2020**  
**Riverdale Elementary School**  
**Mr. John Frizzell**

**TEXT: United States History & Geography: Colonization to Reconstruction. McGraw-Hill**

Textbook will be available online. Information is available on my school website.

**COURSE DESCRIPTION:** This course examines the history of America from the Colonization of North America to Reconstruction following the American Civil War. Learning objectives that will be emphasized include recognizing opportunities to explore history from multiple perspectives and practicing critical reading and thinking.

**COURSE STRUCTURE:** Students should expect to actively participate in my class through group questioning, discussions, reading, and in class activities. Each week there will be either a test or a quiz/classwork assignment. Students will have access to an online text and practice activities. In addition, my PowerPoints are almost always posted the same day as they are used in class, allowing students to review or catch-up if they were absent.

**MATERIALS:** Students should bring the following items to class daily and have them ready-to-use when class begins:  
*Fully charged Ipad with access to Online Textbook, pens/pencils, and their Composition Notebook.*

**GRADING: Final grades will be calculated as follows:**

**Homework: 10%**

**Classwork/Quizzes: 40%**

**Tests/Projects: 50%**

**THERE WILL BE NO EXTRA CREDIT.**

**TECHNOLOGY:**

Technology will play a large role in our course. We will be using iPads in class to conduct research and create projects, take assessments, complete classwork, and collaborate with one another. If your child does not have access to the internet and would like to have computer time outside of class, please contact me and arrangements can be made.

Additionally, parents are encouraged to monitor their student's progress on Skyward and Schoology. Assignments, tests, and project information will also be posted on Schoology.

**MAKE-UP WORK:**

It is **the student's** responsibility to contact the teacher and collect any assignments or handouts missed due to absence. These handouts will be placed in the weekly organizer on Mr. Frizzell's whiteboard for students to collect when they return to school. Students have one day to make up missed work for every day of **excused** absence. Missed tests will be made up before school (7:40 am) by appointment. It is expected that if students miss a day of instruction, they will both view the PowerPoint and get notes from a friend outside of regular class time.

**LATE WORK:** (This does not apply to regular make-up work).

Work should be turned in to the homework tray at the **beginning** of class on the day the assignment is due in order to be considered "on-time." *However*, I do accept late work. I will enter a "0 and missing" in the gradebook for assignments that are not turned in, but I will accept them late and update the grade accordingly. There will be a 5% penalty for each day that the assignment is late. No more than 25% will be taken off for the assignment being late.

Mr. Frizzell reserves the right not to accept late work if the unit that the assignment was from has already been tested over. After all, homework is meant for practice and reinforcement and must therefore be completed before the unit is tested in order to be of value.

### **CLASSROOM LIBRARY:**

Reading is a crucial part of education and learning. Accordingly, I allow students to check books out of my room whenever they would like. In order to do so, they need to sign it using a clipboard behind my desk. Once they fill out the form, I sign it out to them. Students are required to get my signature so that I can keep up with who has my books. I do not like to have to replace books at the end of the year.

### **DISCIPLINE POLICY:**

#### CLASSROOM RULES/PROCEDURES

1. Students will treat both peers and adults with **respect**.
2. Students must follow directions promptly and work to the best of their ability.
3. Students will use technology appropriately.
4. Students will be prompt, prepared, and on task at all times.
5. No student will do anything to stop or distract someone else from learning.

**If a student breaks one of these rules, they will be issued a discipline slip which must be signed by a parent/guardian and returned to Mr. Frizzell. Discipline slips affect a student's conduct grade for the quarter in the following ways:**

**E = 0 slips/parent notifications**

**S = 1-2 slips/parent notifications**

**N = 3-4 slips/parent notifications**

**U = 5 or more slips/parent notifications**

**If a student is issued three discipline slips in a 9 week period, the student will receive detention.**

### **CONTACT:**

Communication between home and school is essential to a student's success. I do my best to keep in contact throughout the year by sending home weekly emails, keeping my Schoology calendar updated, and alerting parents to any academic issues should they arise. Please feel free to contact me during the week at my school email address:

[John.Frizzell@gmsdk12.org](mailto:John.Frizzell@gmsdk12.org)

Please be aware that if you email me outside of school hours, that you may not receive a response until the next day.