

## Social Studies Syllabus

Mrs. Conroy

2016-2017

Our Middle School Social Studies courses are designed to achieve the following general objectives:

- To help students learn to use methods of learning including inquiry, action, and reflection
- To help students learn and use significant facts of both U.S. History, Washington State History (8<sup>th</sup> Grade) and World History (7<sup>th</sup> Grade) to make connections to current events
- To help students develop critical thinking skills and use their knowledge to understand larger concepts
- To help students develop an appreciation of history

Class expectations: Grades will be determined by class participation, daily class work, homework, written assignments, formative and summative assessments, and occasional projects. During the year guest speakers and perhaps field trips will be used to augment classroom work. I will notify parents when these events take place and you are always invited to join us! Each student is required to have a journal or notebook for each class. We are using Cornell Notes for note taking.

Homework will be given to reinforce and practice skills and concepts learned in class and will be posted on my web site on a daily basis. Please encourage your child to be responsible for their homework. The Middle School years are the time to “let go” and allow them to be in charge of their own learning. Every child was provided with a planner at the beginning of the year and should be encouraged to use it.

Assessments: In order to prepare students for high school they will be assessed in a variety of ways in order to familiarize them with different formats. These may include online testing, essay tests, short formative quizzes, longer summative tests, essay tests, oral presentations, collaborative projects, and individual projects.

Seventh Graders are using the same textbook (Harcourt Brace *The World*) that they used last year and will be covering Units 6-10. This year we will be learning about the Growth of Trade, the Early Modern World including the Renaissance, Ancient Empires in Asia, Times of Rapid Change, the World at War, and Present Day (modern Asia, Africa, Middle East, and South America). As the year progresses we will be incorporating the IB Individuals and Societies methodology focused on inquiry and the four key concepts of the MYP Program.

Eighth Graders are doing two courses of study this year. Washington State History is a separate class taught alongside U.S. History and students will receive two separate grades. This course satisfies the state requirement for PNW history and upon successful completion of this course you child will have fulfilled their high school requirement! For U.S. History we will be using *American History* published by Pearson. Each student has a hard copy of this book but the text is also online so that they do not have to carry it home every night. The students have been shown how to use the website to enhance their learning, to practice skills, to review for tests, and even take assessments online.

If you have any questions or concerns please don't hesitate to contact me at [rconroy@stlukeshoreline.org](mailto:rconroy@stlukeshoreline.org) or by phone at 206-542-1133 ext.114.