

**Mrs. Michael, 8th Grade Class Grading Procedures & Content Covered:
American History and Government,
Pre-Colonial times through the Early 20th Century**

Following the 2016 CA State Adopted Frameworks for History Content Standards, 8th graders will be studying American history throughout the time period of the early 1600s - through the 1920s. Students will learn about the story of America from its original Thirteen Colonies through the Age of Expansion in the early 20th century. Students also gain an understanding of how our representative system of government works and their individual rights as United States citizens. Through inquiry and discovery, students will also answer the following 'big picture' questions about who we are as a nation: What did freedom mean to our nation's founders and has it changed over time? How and why did the United States expand? Who is considered an American?

Units in this course include:

- From Colonies to Revolution - Declaration of Independence
- America - Now What? Drafting & Ratification of the United States Constitution
- United States Government - Articles of the Constitution; Bill of Rights
- America in the Early 19th Century:
 - Political Developments
 - Foreign Affairs
 - Territory Acquisition
 - Growth of American Democracy
- America in the Mid 19th Century:
 - African American Experience
 - A Divided Nation
 - The Civil War
 - Reconstruction
 - Tensions in the West
- America in the Late 19th and Early 20th Century:
 - Rise of Industry
 - Great Wave of Immigration
 - The Progressive Era
 - America Becomes a World Power

Grading Procedures:

Grading is based on a points system - certain class requirements are worth more, therefore they have more impact on the final quarter grade:

- Class requirements are weighted in the following manner:
 - **15%: Attendance/Participation:** Students earn attendance points based on a combination of attendance & weekly participation in discussions & class-time activities
 - **40%: Completion of classwork/homework*:** Students earn points based on scores earned through assigned learning activities
 - **45%: Assessments:** Students earn points based on their ability to demonstrate knowledge of the history content they are learning. Assessments are in the form of lesson quizzes, unit tests, discussions, debates, essays, projects, etc. Assessments are weighted heaviest because students will need to demonstrate their knowledge of the learned topic.

***Not all classwork/homework activities are graded.** Student classwork/homework activities are designed with the goal of helping students better learn and understand the topics we're covering. Assessment assignments are where students demonstrate their understanding of the concepts learned. **All** assessment assignments will be graded & are weighted heavier in your student's overall grade. If the homework/classwork activities have not been completed, the possibility increases he/she will not understand the concepts and will be unable to demonstrate knowledge of the topic on assessment assignments.

Want to know what's going on in history class? Check our class website regularly - it will be updated at least once or twice a week. Our class website provides various class information, the topics we're covering, and class agendas for the day. If your student is absent, he or she can check the website to stay up on classwork/homework.

Class website, direct access:

Missmikedms.weebly.com

Class website, access through Denair Middle School website:

Go to dusd.k12.ca.us. Under the 'Our Schools' tab, click on Denair Middle School. Once at the Denair Middle School page, click on the 'Classroom Clickables' tab. In the dropdown menu, click on Gina Michael. Click on the link that appears and it will take you to our class website.

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