# Contact Information

Mr. Simoneau  
8th Grade US History Teacher  
619-596-5665  
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simoneauhistory.weebly.com

# Overview

Hello and welcome to an amazing year of US History. I am excited to be a guide to helping students about how our country came to exist and how it developed in the early years of its life. I am looking forward to having you in my class this school year.

## Description

In 8th Grade U.S. History, you will learn about various peoples, cultures, and advancements that occurred all around the United States. Here is a partial list of the topics that we will cover in this course.

* **Our Colonial Heritage**
* **The American Revolution**
* **Founding Ideas**
* **The American Republic**
* **Westward Expansion**
* **America in the Mid-1800’s**
* **The Civil War and Reconstruction**
* **Industrial Revolution and Immigration**
* **The Modern Nation**

## Objectives

The objective of the class is to develop a better understanding and working knowledge of the social, political, economic, cultural, and technological developments that occurred in North America from 1650-1920.  The class will be challenging, engaging, exciting, and thought provoking. In the process of learning the Common Core standards, students will nurture analytical skills in thinking, reading, writing and speaking.  As a result, the students will be able to apply their knowledge and understanding of history to their modern world.

# Required Materials

## Internet Access

Students are expected to have access to a computer or other appropriate electronic device outside of school in order to complete certain writing activities, essays, and reading assignments. Please let me know if you do not have consistent access to one.

## Textbook

### Online Textbook

Students are encouraged to access the textbook online. The Login information for the students is provided on my website.

### Textbook Loans

Students may also request to borrow one of the textbooks from the class. The student needs to return the textbook to me the next school day unless otherwise discussed.

### Interactive Student Notebook

The interactive notebook is vital to the learning process and will need to be replaced if lost.

## Material Replacement

If any of the books that he/she borrows are lost or damaged, appropriate fines will be assessed. The following list includes the title and cost of the history books that your child is borrowing or using from the school.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Book Title** | **Cost** |
| *History Alive: The United States through Industrialism* | $75.00 |
| *Interactive Student Notebook* | $7.00 |

## Other Material

* Blue or Black ball point pens (at least 2)
* Planner
* Independent reading book
* Backpack
* Spiral notebook, college ruled (at least 70 pages) for their history journal
* Lined Paper, college rulled

# Classroom Management

## Behavior

The school handbook contains the details of the 8th Grade discipline plan that will be followed this year.

## Electronic Device Policy

The unapproved use of electronic devices in my classroom is prohibited. Please refer to the Student Handbook for further details regarding this policy. Students must have their cell phones on silent and stowed away in their backpacks. Visible cell phones will be confiscated. Individual cases will be handled by the administration on a case by case basis. Lost or stolen forbidden electronic devices are not the responsibility or concern of the school.

## Food and Drink Policy

Eating is not allowed in my classroom with the exception of teacher endorsed, whole class celebrations. The only drink that is allowed in my classroom is water. Students may get up and fill their water bottles with my permission.

## Bathroom Policy

Students will be given 10 bathroom passes per month. Some months will be less based on amount of school days that month. These are for all classes. It is up to your judgement and discretion as to when they choose to use these throughout the trimester.

# Attendance

## Late Policy

There are no “Passing Periods” in 8th Grade. Students are expected to arrive promptly to class from where they were previously. If a student needs to use the restroom in between classes. They need to report to me before using the restroom. Any student who is more than 5 minutes late without a note will have a conversation with me during break about appropriate entry into my classroom.

# Communication

The best way to contact me with any questions or concerns is via my classroom phone at 619-596-5665. I will be available for phone conversations after 2:00 PM on every school day.

# Grades

## Lesson Assignments

The curriculum that LFCS uses calls chapters “lessons”. I will refer to “lessons” in class and on the class website. Each “lesson” will take approximately one week to finish.

Lesson Assignments: 70 Points per chapter

* Exit Tickets - 5 points
* Preludes - 5 points
* Connection - 5 points
* Homework Packet - 10 points
* Interactive Student Notebook - 10 points
* Written Response - 20 points
* In Class Collaborative Assessment - 15 points

## Unit Assignments

In addition, every three lessons are grouped into a unit. The students will review the unit. Then, they will take a multiple choice test and complete a written assignment.

Unit Assignments: 70 Points per unit

* Exit Tickets - 5 points
* Connection - 5 points
* Homework Packet - 5 points
* Interactive Student Notebook - 5 points
* Written Response - 20 points
* Unit Text (M/C) - 30 points

Major Projects:

Fall: Matriculation Essay - 100 points

Winter: Washington DC Activities - 100 points

Spring: Ancestry and Immigration Investigation - 100 points

## Grade Weights

Please see the Success Criteria handout for a further breakdown of common assignments. Projects will be given a separate prompt with the points possible included.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Category | Weight |
| Classwork / Homework | 30% |
| Tests / Quizzes | 30% |
| Projects | 30% |
| Preludes / Participation | 10% |

## Late Work

* Work is expected to be turned in on specified due date at the beginning of the class module.
* Work that is 1 day late will be docked 50% of the earned grade.
* Work later than 1 day will not be accepted.
* Students receive 2 late passes per trimester in history that will allow them to turn in one assignment a day late without being penalized 50%.

## Contracts

If an absence is known in advance then the student may request an Independent Study Contract (ISC) in order to keep up with the class for the days that they are absent. ISCs need to be requested through the main office at least one week prior to the student being absent. The ISC needs to be completed and returned to the office within one week of the student returning to class in order for the student to receive credit for that work. The contract needs to be arranged through the office and needs to be signed by all parties involved, teacher, student, and parent before the date of absence. Contracts must be approved by the administration.

## Make Up Assessments

If you are absent for a test or quiz day (not the day before a test or quiz) you will have to arrange for a make-up test, it is your responsibility.

I have read Mr. Simoneau’s syllabus and procedures and understand the guidelines given for grading, necessary supplies, and behavior – both academic and social. I understand that a supply check will occur on September 5th.

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(Student Signature)

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(Parent Signature)                    (Relationship to Student)

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(Parent Signature)                    (Relationship to Student)

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