MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. ACADEMY

*“We Can and We Will!”*

7th & 8th Gr. Social Studies US/NY History I & II

Ms. Amanda Granitto

Agranitto@yonkerspublicschools.org

Room G03

**\*\* Extra Help Hours: Upon request, availability is regular**

**\*\* Iona After School Program**

**Course Description:**

In Grades 7 and 8, students will examine the United States and New York State through a historical lens. The two-year sequence is arranged chronologically, beginning with the settlement of North America by Native Americans∗ and ending with an examination of the United States in the 21st century. Although the courses emphasize the skill of chronological reasoning and causation, the courses also integrate the skills and content from geography, politics, economy, and culture into the study of history. Teachers are encouraged to incorporate local features of state history in the course, such as the Dutch in the Hudson Valley, the Germans in the Schoharie Valley, the French in the Champlain Valley, Fort Niagara, the Brooklyn Naval Yard, the Seneca Falls Convention, Underground Railroad locations, war memorials, and other features in their community.

During the year you will have many different types of writing assignments for Social Studies. Some assignments will be due at the end of the class period; others may be due in a few days or a few weeks. Do not leave long-term assignments until the last minute. You will need the allotted time to thoroughly research, revise, and complete your work. There will be a penalty for any work handed in late.

I want you to know my goals for you as my student is to develop a love of learning and to become an independent thinker and a lifelong learner. I look forward to learning together throughout the year and appreciating the beauty of collaboration. It is going to be a wonderful year!

*Some helpful class information…*

What to bring to class:

* 1 inch binder w/ loose leaf or a notebook
* Dividers for 1) Class notes 2) Vocabulary 3) Homework 4) Study Guides
* Folder designated to Social Studies
* Pens/Pencils/Colored Pencils
* A POSITIVE ATTITUDE!

Use the guidelines below for each written assignment.

Written Assignments

1. If you choose to hand write your assignments, they must be legible, and written on loose-leaf paper. If you choose to type your assignment, print it on white paper using Times New Roman 12 pt. Font. Printed work should be double spaced, and you must use both upper- and lower-case letters in accordance with accepted rules of grammar. In all cases neatness counts!

2. Please use the following heading on all written assignments:

**Name**  **Date**

**US/NY History Section**

**Assignment Title**

3. If you are handling in two or more paper, be sure to write your name on all papers and fasten them with a stapler or paper clip.

4. All completed assignments should be kept in your binder or placed in your folder.

*Class Expectations*

Rules & Classroom Expectations:

Students will develop their own set of mutual expectations and rules in the first few days of school, documented and agreed upon by all, which will be displayed within the classroom.

Attendance Policy:

It is adamant that you are regularly present in school to succeed. Lateness is not acceptable.

Do Now:

A “Do Now” is an activity completed at the beginning of the class period by each student. The “Do Now” allows you to practice a skill, refocus your thoughts, or look deeper into information that was recently introduced in class. Upon entering the classroom, you will see the “Do Now” projected on the board. You are to complete the “Do Now” in the class notes section of your binder. The “Do Now” will be reviewed and completed by student volunteers shortly after the bell has rung.

Exit Ticket:

An “Exit Ticket” is an activity completed at the end of a class period by each student alone or as a group. The “Exit Ticket” allows you to practice a skill or review content presented in the days’ lesson. Some “Exit Tickets” will be reviewed in class & some will be collected for feedback. Each collected Exit Ticket will be credited 2 points based on completion.

Homework:

Homework is assigned for students to master skills presented and practiced in class. Homework will either be reviewed as a class or collected and graded. The “Do Now” screen will state “Homework” if the homework will be collected that day. Please follow the following procedures:

* Homework may not be completed in class.
* 1st quarter late homework will be accepted until the end of the quarter. 2nd quarter homework will be accepted until the end of the week. Third quarter it will be accepted only the next class period. 4th quarter late homework will not be accepted.

Homework policy:

* + Please note that homework is worth 10pts each unless otherwise noted.
	+ Homework Grading Scale:

 10pts – Completed

8pts - Partially Completed

7pts - Late (the highest grade possible for late homework)

5pts - Half Completed

0 - Not Completed

\*Unless otherwise noted

**Grading Information:**

Graded assignments:

o Below please find the weighted breakdown for your graded assignments:

70% – Assessments: varied in forms:

1. Quarter Test: Based on the Thematic Unit(s) Covered
2. Quizzes: To formally access student progress and growth
3. Formative Assessments: to track student progress and understanding
4. Performance Tasks/projects/Book Reports

Note: There will be at least 1 test per quarter but numerous quizzes and formative assessments.

15% Homework

15% – Participation: In Class discussions, initiating communication, signs of growth and progress, etc.\*\*

\*\*Check mark system – students will receive a either a check plus, a check, or a check minus each day based on their participation and readiness in class. Leading a class discussion or group work may lead to a check plus. Actively participating in class and following class rules will result in a check. Disrupting class or completing homework in class results in a check minus because you are not actively participating in class.

Consecutive check plus will result in a 15/15 for participation.

Consecutive check will result in a 12-13/15 for participation.

Consecutive check minus will result in 10-11/15 for participation.

See rubrics for the exact breakdown for grade bands.

Please note that talking during an exam/quiz or evidence of plagiarism/cheating results in a grade of 0%.

Please note that quizzes may be retaken after school to improve your average. The higher of the two grades will be submitted in the grade book.

**Extra Credit Opportunities:**

A minimum of two weeks’ notice must be given to me that you are planning to complete an extra credit assignment, so that proper arrangements can be made. Successfully delivering one of the extra credit challenges will replace your lowest test grade with a 100% and boost your participation grade. You may only complete 1 extra credit challenge per quarter.

Memorize:

1. The presidents of the United States in order of Service:

2. The Bill of Rights (The first 10 Amendments to the US Constitution)

3. The Declaration of Independence from “We hold these truths to be self evident…to…effect their safety and happiness.”

4. Lincoln’s Gettysburg Address

5. Martin Luther King’s “I have a dream speech”

6. Chief Joseph’s Speech

7. The Preamble of the US Constitution

8. A poem dealing with a topic in American History

9. The fifty states in alphabetical order

Write a Letter To:

1. The principal MLK Academy, the Superintendent of Schools, a YPS Trustee, or a PTA Member

2. A Government Official such as the Mayor of Yonkers, the President of the Yonkers City Council, your Council Person, your State Senator or Assemblyperson, the Governor of New York, or the President of the United States.

3. The head of a company or organization

4. The editor of a newspaper or major news organization

5. The author (living) of a book you have read

Please return this page to me no later than Monday with your signature and that of a guardian. This will be your first homework grade.

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I have read and understood the above information and look forward to a wonderful year!

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Student Signature

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Date

X\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Parent Signature

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Date