

SACRED HEART SCHOOL  
COURSE SYLLABUS

**Syllabus Title:** History  
Grade 8

**Teacher Information:** Nancy Pescatello  
Grade 6 Homeroom  
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**Course Description:** The purpose of the eighth grade history program is to develop an understanding that the present is clarified through knowledge of the past and to recognize the development of the United States into a progressive nation and gain an understanding of the causes and effects of major events and wars involving the United States.

**Course Content/Objectives: History: the student will:**

- Identify the people and ideas that shaped the government of the new United States
- Identify the Industrial Revolution, and explain its effect on the United States
- Follow the westward expansion of the United States and discuss the causes and effects of the War of 1812
- Trace the events that led to the differing economies of the North and South
- Examine the differing ways of life that developed in the North and in the South
- Trace the events that led to the Civil War from the Compromise of 1850 to the attack on Fort Sumter in 1861
- Trace the course of the Civil War from war preparations of 1861 to victory of the Union in 1865
- Examine the changes in the West from its days as a frontier in the 1860s to the end of the frontier in the 1890s
- Examine the growing expansion that shaped the foreign policy of the U. S. from the late 1890s through World War I, which established the U. S. as a world power
- Examine the main causes and aggressive events of World War II and the war's impact on American life

**Geography: the student will:**

- Develop map skills needed for interpretation of geographic data relating to the physical environment of the United States
- Demonstrate a knowledge of the use of degrees, latitude and longitude lines to find places in the U. S.
- Reinforce skills in using charts, graphs, and tables as quantitative and qualitative representations of information
- Develop an understanding of historical maps

**Civics: the student will:**

- develop an understanding of early efforts to organize the new Constitution government and create a strong economy
- Examine the efforts of Jefferson to reduce the role of the federal government
- Contrast the economic views of Jefferson and Hamilton
- Recognize the requirements for a democracy as being: 1. right to vote, 2. competition of candidates, 3. participation of electorate, 4. free access to information

**Economics: the student will:**

- Understand the difference between goods and services
- Identify economic problems, i.e. poverty, crime, unemployment
- Identify the relationship of industrialized nations
- Understand that the economy of a region is related to available resources, human knowledge and skills

**Materials: Text:** Prentice Hall: The American Nation, worksheets, maps, internet, videos, overhead projection, magazine and newspaper articles, promethean interactive whiteboard, globe

**Instructional Strategies:** Lectures, discussion/questioning, viewing/listening/answering, data collection, independent learning through internet use, promethean whiteboard interaction activities, videos

**Assessment:** Chapter tests, chapter quizzes, daily class discussion, homework, projects, notebook checks

**Student Expectation:** Students are expected to be prepared for class each day. This includes arriving to class on time, with appropriate textbook, notebook, assignment book, writing instrument, and homework due that day. The following classroom rules are expected from all students: 1. Speak and act respectfully toward all

staff, adult supervisors, and peers. 2. Keep your hands, feet, and objects to yourself. 3. Raise your hand and wait to be recognized before speaking. 4. Remain seated unless otherwise instructed. 5. Be respectful of school property and pick up after yourself.