

## Spring Wood Middle School

### 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Social Studies – 18<sup>th</sup> Century American History

Jeffrey Seiffert

#### Teacher Bio:

My name is Jeff Seiffert! I am an Illinois State graduate with my degree in middle level education. I am endorsed in Social Sciences and Language Arts. My teaching philosophy is that student relationships ALWAYS come first. I spend a great deal of class time building connections with my students and making sure I understand who they are as a person. My goal this year is to teach your student how to be a respectful, responsible, and safe citizen in our community. I look forward to an exciting school year.

#### Course Description:

This American History course is a survey of American history beginning with colonial development in the mid-1600's and ending with the transition from America's Confederation to Constitution. This course is designed to help students understand how and why particular events occurred in our society and the impact they have on our country today. Through the lens of history, students will study geographic, economic, political, and cultural events, which have shaped our country.

#### Course Expectations:

Sixth grade social studies students are expected to use and develop their reading and writing skills as they engage in the processes of historical analysis. Students are expected to come to class prepared and to complete assignments on time.

#### Textbooks and Materials:

*American History: Beginnings through Reconstruction* -used in class; not assigned to students

*A History of US: Making the 13 Colonies* -used in class; not assigned to students

*A History of US: From Colonies to Country* -used in class; not assigned to students

One-inch binder in which to keep course handouts

Google Chromebook in which to keep notes

#### Grading Plan:

- Grades are based on the point system and are also weighted. Each assignment and graded assessment is assigned a point value based on the number of questions. A student's overall trimester grade is computed by averaging the number of points received in each of the following categories: Tests – 35%, Projects – 30%, Homework – 20%, Quizzes – 15%. The number of Formative and Summative Assessments varies by trimester.
- Grading Scale:

A	100-90%
B	89-80%
C	79-70%
D	69-60%
F	59% or below
- Students will also be assigned an overall effort grade at the end of each quarter. Class participation and the timeliness of assignments will impact one's effort grade.

**Course Policies:**

Student Work: Any work not completed during the daily lesson will be considered homework. Students are expected to do his/her best on each assignment and return it to school on the following day, unless an extended deadline has been set.

Late Work: Any assignment not turned in on time will be considered late. 30% of points will be deducted from the assignment; however, the teacher will consider the timeliness of work completion when effort grades are assigned.

Absences: If a student is absent, it is his/her responsibility to get all late work from the teacher and return it in a timely manner. If an extended absence is planned, the teacher will do her best to give the student assignments in advance as long as she is informed of the pending absence at least two days in advance.

Retakes: Students who are unhappy with their performance on tests or quizzes will be given an opportunity to retake the assignment before or after school after making an appointment with the teacher. Students may only retake an assignment if their study guide was completed prior to the day of the test. Students will be assigned whatever grade was earned on the second test.

Extra Credit: Opportunities for extra credit will not be offered. From time to time, students may be challenged to extend their learning; however, points will not be earned for completing these challenges.

**Class Rules:**

- Come to class prepared
- Respect others and their property
- Keep hands, feet, and all other objects to yourself
- Raise your hand for permission to speak
- Walk while in the classroom or halls

**Trimester Plans:**

Trimester 1: The Colonies Develop (1651-1753)  
Beginnings of an American Identity (1689-1763)

Trimester 2: The Road to Revolution (1763-1776)  
The American Revolution (1775-1783)

Trimester 3: Origins of Democracy and Introductions  
to the Constitution (1776-1791).  
Ancient Greece and the Roman Republic  
(776 B.C. – 1453 A.D.)