



Neelsville Middle School Social Studies Department Course Expectations



The goal of the social studies curriculum is to help create historically literate and well informed citizens who actively participate in a democratic society. Below you will find a summary of the curriculum, expectations, and grading policy for Neelsville Middle School's Social Studies Department.

Welcome to 8th grade U. S. History!

Unit	Title	Description	End of Unit Assessment*
1	Democracy: Political System of the People 1763 - 1783	Students will focus on the development of the American political system, examining the people, practices, and institutions that use power to make and enforce the decisions of society. They will examine key events and individuals in the American Revolution. The process of historical investigation is introduced.	Week of October 26 th
2	Creating a National Political System and Culture 1783 - 1815	Students will focus on the creation of the Constitution, the testing of the Constitution, and the gradual emergence of a national culture in America. Students learn how debates over the role of government, the rights of citizens, and distribution of political power helped to shape the government we have today.	SEMESTER ASSESSMENT Week of January 18 th
3	Expanding Geography Challenges Sectional Economics 1815 - 1850	Students will focus on the impact of geography on cultural and economic systems. Students learn how the United States expanded its territory westward to the Pacific Ocean. The impact of this expansion is examined through the experiences of Native Americans, settlers, women, and immigrants. Students will study historical documents to explore social reform movement.	Week of March 22 nd
4	A Nation Divided and Rebuilt 1840 - 1877	Students will focus on the effects of the American Civil War. They will learn how the nation was divided by the issue of slavery and its impact on the political, economic, and social systems. Through the use of historical documents, students will study the experiences of Northerners, Southerners, slaves, freemen, soldiers and women during the war. Students learn how the Union was preserved and citizenship extended to millions of African Americans.	SEMESTER ASSESSMENT Week of June 7 th

*Students and parents will receive more information regarding the end of unit assessments and projects in a timely manner before the scheduled assessment.