



Griffin Middle School  
Grade 8 Georgia Studies  
Instructor: Raven Wildermuth  
School Year 2019-2020

Welcome to academic school year 2019-2020! I'm excited about this year and look forward to working with you and your student. My purposes this year are to help students master Georgia's geography, history, government, and economics, thinking critically as historians, and leave my class prepared for high school. My expectations are high, and I am confident that with hard work and determination, your student will be successful in my class.

**Teacher Blog:** *Content-specific blogs will be updated weekly at a minimum. Please check team blogs for missing assignments, interactive activities you can do at home, classwork, and any other materials your teachers deem necessary to ensure your mastery of the content standards. These blogs are an added benefit for you, the student, to ensure you are receiving every tool possible to help you succeed.*

*If you are absent, please check your content-specific team blogs first for the work you missed. Please use your content-specific blogs regularly.*

Ms. Wildermuth's Blog: <https://www.msw-ga-studies.com>

**Supply List:**

- Binder
- 4 Dividers
- Pen/Pencil
- Colored pencils or Markers

**Course Overview:** All standards can be viewed at <https://www.georgiastandards.org/>.

- Quarter I will cover Georgia's Geography, Colonial history, and the American Revolution.
- Quarter II will cover the Westward Expansion, Civil War, Reconstruction, New South, WWI, Great Depression.
- Quarter III will cover the WWII, Civil Rights, 20<sup>th</sup> Century
- Quarter IV will cover Government, Milestones Review

**Essential Questions:**

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• How can beliefs and ideals influence decisions?</li><li>• How can conflict cause change?</li><li>• How can resolution come from conflict?</li><li>• How is distribution of power vital to success?</li><li>• How can actions of others cause change?</li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• How is where we live vital to how we live?</li><li>• Why is movement necessary for survival?</li><li>• Why is location important for production, distribution, consumption?</li><li>• Why is it important to have rules and laws?</li><li>• How can technology be good and bad?</li></ul> |
|--|---|

**Texts:** All required texts are provided in the classroom or on the teacher blogs. We do have a new textbook this year that students may check out for additional resources at home. If a student fails to return a borrowed textbook, he or she will be charged the price of the book. The student's report card will be held and the student will not move on to high school until either the book is returned or the fine is paid.

**Textbook:** Clairmont Press *Georgia Studies for Georgia Students 8*

**Student Textbook Login:** <http://www.authpro.com/auth/clairmontprsMSHGA17/>

Username: cobb-ga8

Password: peachstate18

**Field Trips:** We hope to have more field trip opportunities later in the year. More information to come.

- **Savannah Trip:** October 13-15 Information available on all teachers' blogs.

**GRADING:** School Policy: There are only two categories:

1. Summative Assessments – worth 30%. Assessments OF learning (Tests)
2. Formative Assessments – worth 70%. Assessments FOR learning (classwork, quizzes, Success Starters, etc).

**GRADE RECOVERY:** *Grade recovery will be permitted on summative assessments only. The purpose of grade recovery is to give the student an additional opportunity to show that he/she has mastered the standards of the course. The following rules will apply for this process.*

§ *To be eligible to take the retest, students must complete a process of remediation, including but not limited to Saturday School (if offered), before and/or after-school tutoring, test analysis, or on-line remediation. The method of remediation will be determined by your teachers.*

§ *Only one retest is permitted per summative assessment.*

§ *The retest will not be the same as the original.*

**The grading scale remains the same: A – 90-100 B – 80-89 C – 74-79 D – 70 – 73 F – 69 or below**

**Late Work:** *For every day an assignment is late, teachers may deduct a total of 5 points per day, up to 5 days that an assignment is late. If after the fifth day the assignment still has not been turned in, the student will receive a zero until they make up the work. Students with zeros may be required to attend Saturday School (if offered) or before and/or after-school tutoring for grade recovery. Students have until 10 business days to turn in work after the end of a grading period.*

**Make-up Work for absences:** *Students who are absent when an assignment is made will be given the same number of days to complete the make-up work as they were absent, not counting the day of return. Make-up of graded work will be as scheduled with the teacher. Students have until five (5) days prior to the end of the grading period to turn in missing work. Assignments made or announced prior to a student's absence, including tests/quizzes, that are due on the day of the student's return will be due at that time. (Quizzes and tests will be taken in class.) Homework and any other make up work will be accepted according to school policy. Students are responsible for requesting and following through on make- up work, not the teacher!!!*

**Classroom Expectations:** Be here! Be ready! Be respectful! ALL CELL PHONES AND ELECTRONIC DEVICES ARE PROHIBITED.

**Academic Integrity:** Cheating is a serious matter. The parents of a student who has been involved in cheating will be notified, and the student will receive a grade of zero for the assignment. Don't cheat, and don't look like you're cheating.

For this course, academic dishonesty is defined as, but is not limited to, the following acts: ▪ Copying anyone's answers to questions, exercises, study guides, class work, or homework assignments which are intended to be done independently, or allowing others to copy answers. ▪ Plagiarism: Taking any information verbatim from any source, including the Internet, without giving proper credit to the author, or rearranging the order of words and/or changing some words as written by the author and claiming the work as the student's own. On research assignments, failure to include parenthetical documentation within the research paper will be considered an act of plagiarism. ▪ Looking onto another student's paper during a test or quiz. ▪ Talking during a quiz or a test without teacher permission. ▪ Having available any study notes or other test aids during a test or quiz without teacher permission. ▪ Collaborating on assignments when independent work is expected.

-----Cut here and return below section -----

I have read the information provided in the 2018-2019 Georgia Studies Syllabus and fully understand the expectations of the Eighth Grade Social Studies Department

Parent/Guardian Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Contact Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian email: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Student \_\_\_\_\_