



8<sup>TH</sup> GRADE U.S. HISTORY  
EAST MIDDLE SCHOOL  
2013 - 2014

**Mrs. Wiltse**

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Class website: <http://mrswiltsesclassroom.weebly.com/>

Dear parents and students,

It is my pleasure to welcome you and your child to a new school year and to the 8<sup>th</sup> grade U.S. History class.

**Coursework and Expectations:** The U.S. History class will focus primarily on events from the European colonization of the Americas to the U.S. Civil War. We will address the major themes, events, and decisions that helped shape our nation. Reading, writing and thinking will be done on a daily basis. In addition to reading and writing strategies, students will learn methods of critical historical thinking to help them gain a deeper understanding of the nation and sharpen their ability to source and analyze historical documents.

Students will need to organize their class materials in a binder, folder, or a notebook designated specifically for this class. Students are to bring and write their assignments in their planner everyday. Although we will have a class set, many students find it very useful to have their own set of colored pencils and highlighters, which I highly recommend.

**Grading and Grades:** Class behavior and participation will be reflected in citizenship and effort grades. Grades will be based on a point system. Points will be given for tests, quizzes, group/individual work, class participation, homework, and labs. Points earned will be divided by the total points possible and this percentage will determine the grade.

100% - 98% = A+	89% - 87% = B+	79% - 77% = C+	69% - 67% = D+
97% - 92% = A	86% - 83% = B	76% - 73% = C	65% - 63% = D
91% - 90% = A-	82% - 80% = B-	72% - 70% = C-	62% - 60% = D-
			Below 60% = F

**Class Rules:** Classroom rules are based on common courtesy. Our focus is to "Be a Titan":

- Be Kind
- Be Respectful
- Be Responsible
- Be your Best

**Homework and Homework Passes:** I expect assignments to be turned in on time. Late assignments will be accepted for partial credit. Students should turn in any missing work as soon as possible, keeping in mind partial credit is better than none at all. Students will receive two homework passes per trimester, which they may use to receive full credit on a late assignment, as long as the assignment is turned in the very next school day. The

homework pass must be stapled to the assignment, dated, and signed by a parent. Any unused homework passes may be turned in at the end of the trimester for extra credit.

**Absences/Make-Up Work:** It is the student's responsibility to check the Absent Folder for assignments they have missed due to an absence. Students will find an Absent Form (along with the handouts of the day) for each day they are absent. To replace a misplaced handout, students should check the "Extra Copies" bin.

**Classroom Website and MISTAR Parent Portal:** The classroom website is designed to keep parents and students informed of daily class work and homework. Under each trimester/unit you will find downloadable handouts, in the event it does not arrive home. Another helpful tool is the MISTAR Parent Portal. This resource will help you keep track of grades, attendance, the class schedule, and more. **Tip: Bookmark both websites on your computer.**

The success of each student is a team effort, with student, teacher and parents working together! If you have questions or concerns related to your child's education or behavior, please do not hesitate to contact me.

I am looking forward to an enriching and successful year with you!

Mrs. Wiltse

**Dear Parents,**

In an effort to stay in communication with you, I would like to create an address book with your email address. I am asking your child to send me an email from your email. On the **Copy** line (**Cc**), include a second parent email address if you have another.

**Students! Your first assignment:**

WITH your parent and from their email, send me an email following these steps:

1. **USING YOUR PARENT’S EMAIL:** Send me (Mrs. Wiltse) an email to the following address: [ninoska.wiltse@farmington.k12.mi.us](mailto:ninoska.wiltse@farmington.k12.mi.us)
2. In the **Subject** line write: **student name, 8<sup>th</sup> SS**  
e.g.: *Joseph Walker, 8<sup>th</sup> SS*  
This way I will know it’s from YOU!
3. In the **Copy** line: An additional parent/guardian email, if any.
4. In the **Message**.... Say “HI” or write a brief message or ask a question you may have at this point. Last, but not least, sign your name.

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**Please sign and return! 8<sup>th</sup> Grade U. S. History  
Mrs. Wiltse**



I have read and understand the classroom policies in the handout. I have discussed these with my parent(s)/guardian(s) and agree to abide by them.

Student Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Parent Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_