

## **Mr. McMurtrey's Bridge to 8<sup>th</sup> Grade American Foundations Syllabus**

**Session 1: June 29-July 17 class times are Monday, Wednesday, Thursday from 11:30-12:30 pm.**

**Session 2: July 20-August 7 class times are Monday, Wednesday, Thursday from 11:30-12:30 pm.**

**Office Hours: Monday, Wednesday, Thursday from 12:45 am - 1:15 pm.**

**Additional Tutoring: Tuesday 10:00-11:00 am.**

Welcome to Bridge to Fall where we offer fully integrated differentiated instruction that will help ensure a Bridge to Fall instruction. My name is William McMurtrey and I am excited to be your child's bridge teacher. I have 18 years of preparing, nurturing, and teaching. During our sessions your child will be pushed to achieve academic excellence; together let's work tirelessly to ensure your child is successful. I look forward to our partnership this school year.

### **Teacher Contact**

The best way to reach me is email at [wsmcm1@gmail.com](mailto:wsmcm1@gmail.com) or you can reach our Program Coordinators at XXXXXX

### **Course Summary**

Students will explore the founding of the United States by Writing, Reading and Thinking like a Historian. Students will trace the growth, expansion, and development of America. They will use multiple sources to grapple with the conflicts and compromises of early America. With the use of technology tools like Play posit, iCivics, and Kahoot students will expand on their knowledge in a meaningful and individualized manner; these sites allow access to archival information, primary sources, and videos about everything from ancient Mesopotamia to World War 1. The students culminating learning activity will be a writing that addresses, Did the Constitution create the best government possible? Students will use evidence from notes, discussions or readings to respond to the prompt.

### **Text and Materials:**

Students will need the following materials for this course:

- Pencil and paper (**DAILY**)
- U.S. History Curriculum
- Playposit account (**assigned by teacher**)
- Kahoot assignments (**assigned by teacher**)
- iCivics assignments (**assigned by teacher**)

### **Tutoring:**

If your child needs additional assistance, I am available for tutoring on Tuesday's from 10:00 -11:00 am or by appointment.

**Families can expect each session to have the following components: This includes an opening and closing activity. The starting order will be determined by the previous lesson.**



### **Reading Like a Historian**

This course uses historical inquiry to engage students, each historical topic has a central question that students will investigate. Students will use reading strategies such as: sourcing, contextualizing, and close reading to address historical questions. Students are not forced to memorize historical dates instead they will evaluate the trustworthiness of differing perspectives on historical issues and learn how to make a historical claim that is supported evidence.



### **Writing like a Historian**

Writing is an essential part of the learning process historical writing forces students to use their knowledge of a subject to construct a compelling narrative that makes sense from the evidence they gathered. Students will use play posit, Kidblog, or VoiceThread or another form of technology that allows them to investigate the following questions:

- Who wrote this?
- What is the author's perspective?
- Why was it written?
- When was it written?
- Where was it written?
- Is this source reliable? Why? Why not?



## Vocabulary Instruction

Vocabulary instruction is the key to literacy, often students that struggle in Social Studies an attributing cause can be the lack of vocabulary instruction. **Vocabulary** knowledge encompasses all the words students must know to learn and understand major concepts, it helps students access background knowledge, express their ideas and communicate effectively. To engage and assist students we will use Kahoot, flip grid, or some other form of engaging activity.