

Saint John the Baptist Middle School
8th Grade Accelerated Social Studies
2017-2018
Summer Project

Welcome and congratulations on being chosen for 8th Grade Accelerated Social Studies. It is both an honor and a responsibility to be selected for this class. This year you will be studying U.S. history - Prehistory through 1877.

Historians are concerned with the research and study of current and past events that relate to the human race. They study every historical period and all geographic areas of the world. The study of history is an essential part of being a good citizen, both of the United States and the world. History helps us understand the people and events that created the society we live in today. It also helps us plan for the future by giving an understanding of the past.

Most of all - history is fun! It is like hearing an exciting story. In history, there are stories to interest everyone. You will begin your study this summer by reading a novel about the events of the American Revolution or the Civil War.

Choose one book from the four novels listed below for your reading project. As you read the book, you should highlight, use post-it notes to mark important events, and make notes of major characters and events. This will allow you to go back and find information quickly, as we will be taking an open-book test and writing an essay. **You will need to bring your book (printed copy) and notes (handwritten only) to class and be ready for an open-book, 25 question – multiple choice test (worth 100 points) on the first day of school. The essay on your book will be assigned at that time.**

***NOTE: No electronic readers or devices will be allowed in Social Studies for any reason. All books used must be traditional printed copies and must be your own copy of the book (no shared books allowed).**

List of Books

“In My Father’s House” – Ann Rinaldi – ISBN-13: 9780590447317

(“In My Father’s House” may be out-of-print, but used copies are available on-line from suppliers such as Barnes and Noble.)

“Time Enough for Drums” – Ann Rinaldi – ISBN-13: 9780440228509

“With Every Drop of Blood” – James and Christopher Collier – ISBN-13: 9780440219835

“My Brother Sam is Dead” – James and Christopher Collier – ISBN-13: 9780590427920

*** NOTE: Make sure you get the full edition printed copy of the novel (not the “Junior Version”)**

I look forward to seeing you in class in August. Have a great summer and Happy Reading!

Mrs. Smith