

# WEST JEFFERSON HILLS SCHOOL DISTRICT SOCIAL STUDIES GOAL STATEMENT

## GRADE 8

### **Student rights and Responsibilities**

- Identify basic school rules and procedures listed in the school handbook
- Explain the need for establishing and obeying rules
- Describe the student responsibilities that accompany student rights

### **The 13 English Colonies (1630-1750)**

- Review the origins of the 13 English colonies
- Analyze colonial growth in relationship to cultural changes, commercial development, and trade

### **The Road to Revolution (1745-1775)**

- Analyze the impact of European rivalries for possession of North America
- Evaluate the French and Indian war
- Explain the cause and effect relationship which led to armed conflict with England

### **The American Revolution (1775-1783)**

- Identify the actions taken by the second continental congress in 1776
- Identify strengths and weaknesses of each side in the revolution
- Evaluate the main ideas of the declaration of independence
- Explain how volunteers from other countries came to America's aid
- Describe the role of Native Americans, African Americans, and women in America's struggle for independence
- Identify the key factors which led to America's final victory and peace treaty

### **Creating a Republic (1776-1790)**

- Recall the problems involved with creating the early confederation of the states
- Describe the setting and issues involved in the constitutional convention
- Explain the concept of "A More Perfect Union"
- Identify the role of anti-federalists versus federalists in establishing the new government
- Describe the amendment process and the creation of the bill of rights of the constitution

### **The Constitution at Work**

- Analyze the goals of the constitution
- Explain the five basic principles of the constitution
- Explain the concept of "A Living Constitution"
- Examine the national government at work in the American society
- Identify the responsibilities of citizenship

### **The New government Begins (1789-1800)**

- Examine the actual organizing of the new government
- Describe the key influences of George Washington and Alexander Hamilton
- Recall America's reaction to challenges to the new government at home and abroad
- Recognize the main ideas in Washington's farewell address

- Explain the rise of political parties and their influences on important issues
- Describe the challenges to John Adams as president

### **The Jefferson Era (1801-1816)**

- Evaluate the impact of Thomas Jefferson's election as president
- Analyze the importance of the Louisiana Purchase
- Explain the journey and discoveries of the Lewis and Clark expedition
- Describe the problems involved with protecting American neutrality
- Identify the events which led to another war with England
- Evaluate the events associated with the war of 1812

### **Years of Growth and Expansion (1790-1825)**

- Analyze the causes and effects of the industrial revolution in America
- Illustrate the early manufacturing and factory systems
- Examine the American movement westward and the means of transportation used to get there
- Explore the "Era of Good Feelings"
- Explain the causes for and the effects of the Monroe Doctrine

### **The Jackson Era (1820-1840)**

- Compare and contrast key American political figures from John Quincy Adams through Andrew Jackson
- Recall Jackson's influences on the American economy and government
- Define tariffs and demonstrate their impact on states' rights
- Recall the plight of the Native Americans and the issue of their land claims
- Analyze the progression of the office of the presidency from Martin Van Buren through John Tyler

### **From Sea to Shining Sea (1820-1860)**

- Evaluate the importance of the acquisition of Oregon and Texas into the United States
- Analyze the concept of "Manifest Destiny"
- Describe the causes, events, and effects of the Mexican War
- Illustrate the surge of Americans across the Rocky Mountains and on to California

### **Worlds of North and South (1820-1860)**

- Compare and contrast the growth and culture of the industrial north to the culture and society of the south's cotton kingdom
- Examine the role of European immigrants in the north
- Recall the role of slavery in the southern economy and culture

### **A Reforming Age (1820-1860)**

- Identify the roots and growth of the anti-slave movement
- Explain the impact of the growth of the women's rights movement
- Describe the changing roles of and opportunities for women as a result of the equality movement
- Define the reform movements which effected health care, public education, and temperance
- Evaluate the influences of the literary writers and creative artists of the 1800's

### **The Road to Civil War (1820-1861)**

- Interpret the issues involved with slavery versus freedom in new American lands to the west
- Analyze the attempts made to save the union from self-destruction
- Explain the events involved in “Bloody Kansas”
- Evaluate the impact of the **Dred** Scott decision in driving America closer to civil war
- Discuss the platform and principles of the “new” Republican Party and its leading spokesman, Abraham Lincoln
- Examine the consequences involved with Harper’s Ferry and the election of 1860
- Explore the birth of the Confederate States of America
- Identify events that led to the outbreak of the American Civil War

### **Torn by War (1861)**

- Discuss how the states divide by north and south
- Demonstrate the pros and cons associated with each side
- Evaluate the potential dangers of the civil war
- Summarize the progress and limitations of the American nation from 13 struggling colonies to a nation divided by civil war