

**Saint John the Baptist Middle School**  
**8<sup>th</sup> Grade Accelerated Social Studies**  
**2019 - 2020**

**Overview-**

This course is the study of United States history from the Age of Exploration (1500's) through Reconstruction (1870's), and is designed for students with a dedicated interest in Social Studies and a desire to understand this subject in greater depth. Students focus on political, economic, geographic, social events and issues related to the colonial and revolutionary eras, the creation and ratification of the U.S. Constitution, challenges of the early republic, westward expansion, sectionalism, Civil War, and Reconstruction. The course requires a high level of reading comprehension, as primary and secondary sources are utilized extensively. Current events are studied in a historical context to give students a better understanding of U.S. history and how it relates to their lives and the world today. The course also has a greater emphasis on writing and analytical discussion than the academic course. Enrollment in this course is based on an application process and completion of a summer project.

**Student should-**

- Demonstrate a desire to understand and have an interest to study this subject at greater depth
- Understand the additional commitment in time and effort required to be successful in this accelerated class
- Have the maturity, ability to focus, concentrate and work independently at an accelerated level
- Have strong reading comprehension and writing skills
- Have indicated "Accelerated Social Studies" choice on their enrollment packet
- Meet the academic and citizenship requirements

**Student will be required to-**

- Successfully complete a summer reading assignment (purchase of assigned book required - no electronic media copies allowed)
- Be prepared for an exam or essay to be assigned on the summer reading assignment
- Complete additional assignments above the requirements for the academic course including additional reading, writing, PowerPoint presentations, research, discussions, and other work as assigned

**\*NOTE: No electronic readers or any electronic devices allowed in 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Social Studies.**