



News from Social Studies

Ms. Harvey

Grade 5

We have been studying early European settlements in the New World, including Jamestown, Roanoke Island, Plymouth, and the Massachusetts Bay colony. We investigated their journeys across the Atlantic Ocean and imagined what it must have been like to arrive in a strange place without the comforts of home. Students wrote historical fiction, “Our Mayflower Diaries,” to chronicle the journey through a Separatist, or Pilgrims as we call this group now, child’s eyes.

Grade 6

We have continued traveling back in time to ancient civilizations – finding surprising similarities in the ancient world despite lack of modern communication! For instance, many civilizations develop on the riverbanks and use irrigation techniques to control the flow of water for their farmland. Farms grow into villages, into towns, into cities, into kingdoms, into empires!! (Not without a lot of conflict and warfare...) Much of our knowledge about these ancient

civilizations comes from the art, artifacts, and writings that have been recovered.

Grade 7

“Don’t fire unless fired upon, but if they mean to have a war, let it begin here.” Captain John Parker at Lexington, 1775.

The road to revolution is a rocky path and not something to be undertaken lightly, as we have discovered in our study of the American Revolutionary War. The fight for independence from British tyranny meant suffering and hardship for the colonists. Fortunately, with assistance from European allies, France and Spain, the Continental Army prevailed at Yorktown and the great challenge to create the United States of America was undertaken.

Grade 8

We have mined for gold in California with the ‘49ers, competed for farmland in the Homestead Act of 1862, cattle driven our herd of Texas Longhorns, and helped build the Transcontinental Railroad after the Civil War! Recently we have returned to New York City to follow the development of the famous Five Points Neighborhood during this time period. We have been following the development of the United States into a modern industrial giant and wondering, along with the famous social reformers of the time, will our country ultimately invest in the well-being of all her citizens and build a stronger nation - of the people, by the people, and for the people?

Grade 8 Vocabulary and Grammar

Focusing on vocabulary and grammatical constructions is useful for developing knowledge and skills in multiple aspects of language

and literacy. This includes helping with decoding, comprehension, and fluency. We use our vocabulary words to express ideas in essays and humorous writing pieces. Students are reminded that it is required to bring a self-chosen reading book for silent reading time during this class period. Students who read independently have greater reading comprehension, verbal fluency, and general knowledge about the world, as well as a more developed imagination. Choose a good book and bring it to class everyday, please!

Reminders for students:

Exciting events occurred before and during Christmas break which sometimes made classwork and studying take a back seat to the celebrations. Returning to school after Christmas break can take some adjustment. Please remember to listen and follow directions, do your best work, respect each other, respect your teachers, and show care for your school classrooms and school grounds. Together we can make this a wonderful New Year!