**My Program Philosophy**

Dear Parent or Guardian,

I would like to welcome you and your child to Social Studies 8th grade United States History Class—an integral and fascinating course that I am excited to be teaching! Please consider getting involved in your child’s education throughout the term. By doing so, you can help your son or daughter succeed and maybe even learn something new yourself. And why not? The more we all know about the history of the world around us, the more we can make sense of the world today.

Throughout the United States History course your son or daughter will be using the text *Holt Social Studies: United States History*. This textbook provides a complete history of the United States, from the first Americans through to the present day. This important story of our nation is told through an informative and richly illustrated narrative, supported by reading questions that check your child’s comprehension and special features that enliven the study of history.

My goals for the course are to help your child:

* develop a strong understanding and appreciation of United States history
* see how United States history fits into the larger scope of world history
* understand how United States history influences life today
* recognize connections between United States history and other disciplines
* build a solid Social Studies and academic vocabulary
* develop thinking skills that support the ability to challenge assumptions, think creatively, and solve real-life problems
* have fun!!

I would appreciate your help in furthering these goals. Simply encouraging your child as he or she explores United States history will go a long way! Thank you for being an important part of your child’s learning experience this year.

Sincerely,

Mr. Kay