**Georgia Studies**

**Ms. Margaret Weston**

**Class Syllabus 2025-2026**

**Course Description and Objectives**

In eighth grade, students study Georgia geography, history, government, and economics. While the four strands are interwoven, ample opportunity is also provided for an in-depth study of the geography of Georgia and the government of Georgia. U.S. historical events are included, as appropriate, to ensure students understand Georgia’s role in the history of the United States.

First Semester Second Semester

Unit 1: Connecting Themes Unit 9: Civil Rights

Unit 2: Geography & American Indians Unit 10 Modern Georgia

Unit 3: Exploration and Colonization Unit 11: State and Local Government

Unit 4: Statehood Unit 12: Adult and Juvenile Justice

Unit 5: The Civil War Unit 13: Personal Finance

Unit 6: The New South Complete with overall Georgia Studies Project

Unit 7: The 20th Century

Unit 8: Post World War II Georgia

**Textbook**

Gallopade– *Georgia 8th Grade Social Studies*

**Richmond County Board of Education Grading Policy**

• Minor Grades 60% (Quizzes, Classwork, Graded Writing Assignments, Group Work, etc.)

**The minimum number** of minor grades per 6-week progress report period is 5

• Major Grades 40% (Unit & Chapter Test, Projects, Research papers,)

**The minimum number** of major grades per 6-week progress report period is 2

**Academic Grading Scale**

A (100-90) B (89-80) C (79-75) D (74-70) F (69-0)

Parents are encouraged to monitor their child’s grades using the district Infinite Campus Parent Portal.

Please contact the front office at 706-737-7288 for information to gain access to Infinite Campus.

**Academic Dishonesty**

The Student Code of Conduct, Rule 1(A)(t), states that no student shall cheat, alter records, plagiarize, receive unauthorized assistance or assist another in any type of academic dishonesty. The determination that a student has engaged in academic dishonesty will be based on the judgment of the classroom teacher and a supervising administrator, taking into consideration any written materials, observation, or information from witnesses. Students found to have engaged in academic dishonesty will be subject to disciplinary actions as outlined in the Student Code of Conduct. Additionally, the task may be entered as “incomplete” and the student required to redo the assignment or retake the assessment.

**Late Work**

Late work is defined as assignments that are submitted after the specified deadline. This does not apply to work submitted late due to absence from school. Students are expected to submit assignments on time. Multiple incidents of late work may result in teacher-student-parent conferences to examine and correct the student’s work habits through a behavior an academic contract.

**Make-up Work**

Students are expected to make-up assignments and assessments that were missed due to absence from school. Students are responsible for asking teachers for the make-up work upon returning to class. Make-up work should be completed by the student within the time specified by the teacher. Teachers should provide reasonable timelines for completing make-up work. Generally, such work should be completed within 5 days of returning to school. A student should not be required to take a quiz or test on their first day back at school if the assessment was first announced during their absence. Graded assignments should be scored to accurately reflect the level of mastery of standards.

**Homework**

Homework will consist of work covering standards that were addressed during the week OR any classwork that was not completed during class time. All homework assignments will be reviewed to assess for mastery of standards.

**Relearn & Reassess (R&R Procedures)**

For grades 4-12, after any major assessment, students should have the opportunity to submit a relearning plan for parent and teacher approval. Upon satisfactory completion of the plan, as determined by the teacher, students should be given a minimum of one opportunity to be reassessed. Students scoring below 70 on a major assessment should be expected to complete a relearning plan unless exempted with parent approval.

**AI Guidance**

The Student Code of Conduct, Rule 1(A)(t), states that no student shall cheat, alter records, plagiarize, receive unauthorized assistance, or assist another in any type of academic dishonesty. The unauthorized or improper use of an artificial intelligence (AI) program constitutes academic dishonesty.

Teachers have discretion to determine if R&R opportunities will be given for any **minor assessment.**

**Cell phones** are not permitted in class, per school policy, and should not be seen nor heard. Students

should turn cell phones off and place them in their bookbags. Please refer to Rule 16 of the Richmond County Code of Conduct.

**Classroom Procedures & Expectations**

The overarching expectation in this class is **RESPECT**: respect for yourself, respect for other students, respect for the teacher/or any individual in authority, and respect for any guests that may enter our class.

Although this encompasses all other expectations, I will outline several others for the sake of clarity.

1. Always Try YOUR BEST!!! I will not settle for anything but your best!!

2. Have the “I can do it” attitude! Stick to It and Don’t Give Up!

3. Remain SEATED and PREPARED at all times.

4. Bring ALL materials to class DAILY.

5. Every student is responsible for helping to maintain a clean, safe learning environment. Your area

must remain CLEAN at all times. The floor should be clear of trash, paper, and personal belongings.

**Leaving the classroom** – ONLY on rare occasions should a student leave the classroom. Personal business, work for other teachers, athletic and extracurricular forms, and retrieving lost belongings should be done outside of class time. Parents will be contacted for students who repeatedly disrupt or interrupt the class to ask to leave for various reasons.

Repeated minor infractions will result in an office referral. Students must conduct themselves in a way that contributes to a SAFE, POSITIVE learning environment for EVERYONE. Common disruptive and inappropriate behaviors include – inappropriate cell phone/earbud/headphone/laptop use, bullying or denigrating other students, using profanities or other inappropriate language, horseplay, talking out of turn or interrupting the teacher and other students, eating in class, out of assigned seat without permission, working on another teacher’s homework/assignments and others. These behaviors DO NOT contribute to a positive learning environment and must be curtailed. Students who exhibit model behavior will be verbally acknowledged and occasionally rewarded.

**Course Materials**

\* Notebook paper \* 2 pocket folder (preferably blue)

\* 1 Composition Notebook **\*** 1 pack of highlighters

\*1 pack of colored pencils

\* Pens (black or blue pens) \*Pencils -No Mechanical Pencils

Wired earbuds

**Please refer to the Student Code of Conduct for further guidance on Richmond County School System’s policies and procedures**.

**My contact information: Email:** [Westoma@boe.richmond.k12.ga.us](mailto:Westoma@boe.richmond.k12.ga.us)

**Tutt Middle School Phone Number**: 706-737-7288

**Remind: @mweston219**

**8th Grade Social Studies**

**Ms. Margaret Weston**

**(This bottom section needs to be completed by a parent/guardian with the student)**

**Please sign and return this portion of the syllabus to affirm that you have reviewed this document:**

Student’s Signature\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_Date\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Name (Print) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian’s Signature \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_Date \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Parent Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_