

- ★ On the **following page (page #2)** you will write a friendly letter to incoming 8th graders. The overall idea is to give them some information and advice that you wish you may have had when you started 8th grade.
- ★ Your letter should be:
 - Three to five paragraphs in length (5-8 sentences = 1 paragraph)
 - In standard 12 point font, In Arial or Times New Roman
 - Either single (1.0) or double spaced (2.0) "Line Spacing"
 - Either block paragraphs or indent paragraphs.
 - Basic rules of writing should be followed → sequencing and flow, complete sentences, correct: spelling, capitalization, grammar, punctuation
 - If these are not followed and impacts the reading of your letter points will be taken off or extra credit will not be awarded
- ★ Each paragraph should cover a different topic. Some topic ideas include:
 - What are some materials or resources that they will need or would be nice to have for Social Studies?
 - What will they be learning about in 8th grade Social Studies? Are there any topics in particular you think they could start researching over the summer?
 - What was your favorite learning topic or activity we did in Social Studies this year?
 - What types of things do you do in this Social Studies class? What can they expect to do each class or throughout the year?
 - What were some of the most important lessons and or skills you learned this year in Social Studies?
 - How can they be successful in Social Studies?
 - How can they avoid failure in Social Studies class?
 - What makes your teacher happy? How can you earn your teachers' respect?
 - What will make your teacher displeased? What could get you in trouble with your teacher?
 - If there is something you would do differently knowing what you know now? What would it be and why?
 - What will you miss about 8th grade Social Studies?
- ★ We plan on sharing these to our social studies class websites so the new 8th graders can see this advice over the summer and prepare for 8th grade early. Be creative and positive!

One of things I wish I knew when coming into eighth grade is Social Studies class will almost always be the hardest class you take. I had a hard time doing well in social studies this year because I didn't study on tests and quizzes and I gave up half way through the year, and was failing for a while. So make sure to study, your teachers will tell you a lot, but it's the thing that will help you the most, especially in social studies.

When I would get a bad grade on something I immediately thought I would fail that class, but as long as you've been doing your work and you've had a good grade, up until that time, it is okay to not get a perfect score on everything. Most teachers don't do that harsh of grading on MOST assignments. Not saying it's good to get bad grades, but, it shouldn't affect your grade as much as you think.

One last thing I wish I knew going into 8th grade is learning to get over and to not hold grudges. You don't have to like everyone however, you can't hate everyone and talk about everyone, or hold grudges especially holding grudges. Holding grudges will only make your school year worse and harder. Plus if you extra or too stressed about friends and how mad or upset they made you, you won't be able to worry about your school work and grades. If you play sports and you can't keep up your grades then you cannot play, and no one wants to be the kid who couldn't play because of their grades.