***8th Grade American History***

***Mr. Zengel***

**Course Goal:** Students will be able to trace the development of the United States of America through an in-depth investigation of the conflicts that were overcome to produce our great nation, as well as the lasting effects the fallout from those conflicts has had on our society. Students will begin their study with the initial conflicts that arose between the Native American peoples and the European Explorers and end the course investigating the tremendous social upheaval in the aftermath of the Civil War. The history of the State of Tennessee will be highlighted at appropriate times throughout the course.

Course content will be presented through textbook reading, lectures, class discussions and individual study in the form of projects. Students should pay close attention and actively participate by answering questions and taking notes during class in order to ensure successful learning.

 Student grades are comprised of scores earned for homework assignments (15%), class work (10%), quizzes (25%), and tests (50%). Projects may be counted as either quizzes or tests, depending on the difficulty. To earn full credit on homework assignments, students must complete the task neatly, submit it on the due date and have the assignment written down in their assignment books. This will help students become more responsible and organized at this critical age. Parents should check the assignment books regularly to make sure students are completing their work. Parents and students should also use ParentsWeb as a means to check current class grades and other information. The Middle School web pages are a valuable resource for class assignments and links to extend the curriculum. Discipline procedures and late work policies can be found in the Parent/Student Handbook.

**Required Materials:** Students will be issued *American History* from McDougal Littell. Students should come prepared to class everyday with their textbooks, assignment books, black or blue pens or pencils, and a composition notebook.

**Outline of Content:**

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| First QuarterEuropean ExplorationColonial AmericaThe Road to Independence | **Third Quarter**The New Republic* The Jefferson Era
* Expansion

The Growing Nation* The Jackson Era
* Manifest Destiny
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| **Second Quarter**The American RevolutionThe Constitution* Weaknesses of the Articles of Confed.
* Compromise
* Our Guide for Government and Law
 | Fourth QuarterSectionalism: North and SouthSlavery and CompromiseThe Civil War - Tennessee’s RoleReconstructionThe Twentieth Century |

Thank you for your cooperation and support,

Mr. Andy Zengel

**Andy Zengel**

Middle School Religion and History, 8th Grade Homeroom, Dean of the Middle School

Mr. Zengel received his B.A. in Theology and his Masters in Education from the University of Notre Dame and is currently participating in a Catholic School Leadership program through Loyola Marymount University. He has been a teacher for eleven years and begins his tenth year at Saint Joseph School. His wife, Caroline, is a nurse at Children’s Hospital.  The Zengels have a daughter, Mary, and two sons, James and John.  Mr. Zengel’s areas of interest are playing with his kids, reading the Great Books, hiking, listening to good music, and watching good movies.