**Sandy Springs Charter Middle School**

**8th Grade TAG/Advanced Georgia Studies**

**Ms. Drago**

**2015-2016**

**Contact Information:**

* e-mail: [dragoc@fultonschools.org](mailto:dragoc@fultonschools.org)
* phone: 470-254-4970
* Room F117
* Help Session: Monday 8:00 AM – 8:30 AM

**Materials:**

* College-Ruled Spiral Notebook (for your binder)
* Double-Sided Tape (suggested)
* The supplies listed on the SSCMS General Supply List.

**Text: Students will not be issued an individual textbook.**

* Georgia & the American Experience
* Cost: $49.95
* Lost/Damaged Textbook Policy: Students are financially responsible for all books issued by SSCMS. Textbooks may not be left in classrooms and teachers are not responsible for the whereabouts of your book. The copy which was issued to the student must be turned in at the end of the course. Students will not receive credit for turning in another student’s book and may not turn in replacement books. The cost of replacement will be assessed to any student that fails to turn in the book they were issued or turns in a damaged book. If the student is issued a damaged book such as a broken binding, torn pages, water damage, writing, etc., then the book should be returned for a replacement or document the damage. There is a two week grace period for students to document damage before they will be held accountable.

**Course Description:**

Students will trace the history of Georgia in the context of the development of the entire nation. A chronological focus includes a foundation of Georgia in the 18th Century through the state’s development in the 20th Century. Students will examine the characteristics of State Government, Public Issues, and Citizen Rights and Responsibilities. *The TAG curriculum is designed specifically to meet the needs of the gifted learner. Activities may differ in scope, depth, and pace. There are also increased opportunities for higher level thinking skills which include analysis, interpretation, and evaluation.*

**Course Outline:** (GPS Standards can be found at https://www.georgiastandards.org/Standards/Georgia%20Performance%20Standards/Gr8-Social-Studies-Standard.pdf)

**1st Semester:**

Geography of Georgia

Government in Georgia

Georgia’s Beginnings

Georgia’s Colonization

Conflict, Compromise, and Revolution

Western Expansion

**2nd Semester:**

Georgia in Antebellum Era

Georgia in the Civil War

Georgia and Reconstruction

Government in Georgia

Developing National Identity

Depression and World Conflict

Societal and Technological Growth

**Academic Performance Requirement:**

Tag/Advanced students must maintain an average of 80% in a Tag or Advanced class in order to avoid being placed on probation.  If a Tag/Advanced student's grade falls below 80% in a Tag or Advanced class, the student will automatically be placed on probation.  Probation will last at least one quarter grading period.  Failure to maintain an 80% by the end of the probationary period may result in removal from the Tag/Advanced class.

**How Grades are Determined:**

A student’s grade will be determined by their class work, homework, essays, quizzes, test, and projects. See the grade distribution chart for the weight of each item. Grades are cumulative for the semester. You can expect grade reports to be sent home every 4½ weeks.

**Grade Distribution:**

Tests/Projects: 40%

Class work: 30%

Quizzes: 25%

Homework: 5%

**Grading Scale:**

100 – 90 A

89 – 80 B

79 – 70 C

69 – below F

**Work Expectations**:

Assignments may be overnight or long-term. Some class work becomes homework if it is not finished during the class period. Homework will be checked and reviewed promptly. Students are expected to meet deadlines on all assignments.

**Assessments**:

Major assessments/tests will be given at the end of the academic unit. Minor assessments/quizzes will also be given throughout the units. In an effort to prepare for high school, eighth graders take cumulative exams at the end of the semesters. **Students are required to save homework, class work, handouts, and tests in an Interactive Notebook (SSIN).** The final exams for eighth graders carry the same weight as any other major test.

**Absence Make-Up Procedures:**

Students must turn in any missed assignments within the number of days absent from school. In the event a student is absent on the day of a test, the student is expected to take the test upon their return to class. However, the teacher will allow the student to make up the test before school or during a help session**. It is the responsibility of the student to inquire about any assignments missed.**

**Provision for Improving Grades** **(FCS policy):**

Opportunities designed to allow students to recover from a low or failing cumulative grade will be allowed when all work requests to date have been completed and the student has demonstrated a legitimate effort to meet all course requirements including attendance. Teachers will determine when and how students with extenuating circumstances may improve their grades.

**Behavior Guidelines and Discipline**:

In order to maintain an environment conducive to learning, students must follow the school behavior guidelines and rules and procedures of the classroom. Should a student not follow these rules, the teacher will use a combination of the following methods: verbal reprimand, conference between teacher and student, seating change, time-out, detention, communication to parent via telephone, agenda, or email, referral to a guidance counselor, conference between parent, teacher, student, and administrator, or an office referral.

**Help Sessions:**

My help sessions will be on Monday mornings 8:00 AM – 8:30 AM. Students must have their help session pass stapled in the front of their agenda to attend.

**Teacher/Student/Parent Conferences:**

E-mail is the most efficient way to deal with minor questions or concerns. However, a student or parent can request a conference at anytime. Please allow at least 48-shour notice when scheduling conferences. Grades may be checked on the internet through the home access center. Most major assignments and tests will be posted within a week of the assignments due date.

Print Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

# **TAG Georgia Studies**

**Syllabus Review Acknowledgement**

The syllabus enclosed within this packet is extremely important to the success of your child this year. It is important for parents/guardians to be aware of this important information throughout the year in order to help your child do the best they can.

* Syllabus Review Acknowledgement – Parent/Guardian should sign this sheet after reviewing syllabus with student then return to teacher.
* Course Syllabus – Student or parent should keep a copy of the syllabus for their reference.

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Student Signature Date

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Parent/Guardian Signature Date

Please write below an email address and/or phone number that is the best method of contacting parent/guardian between 8:00-8:30 AM, between 12:00- 1:30PM or between 4:00-4:15 PM.

e-mail: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

phone: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

I am excited about starting another year here at Sandy Springs Charter Middle School. I look forward to working with you and your child.

Thank you,

Christie Drago, Ed. S.

Sandy Springs Middle School

8th Grade Georgia Studies

\*\*\*Please sign below, detach and return by August 28, 2015\*\*\*