**U.S. History – Mrs. Albaugh’s Class Syllabus**

***Year Long Focus***

* The idea of America has been associated with the ideals of freedom, equality, and opportunity. American history is the struggle to live up to those ideals..
* The United States functions by maintaining a balance between opposing groups/powers.

***Content***

Quarter 1

* Our Beginnings
	+ Early Exploration and Settlement
	+ Who were our early colonists, and why did they settle here?
* American Belief System
	+ What ideas unite us as Americans?
	+ Roots of the Constitution
	+ The Constitution and Bill of Rights

Quarter 2

* Western Expansion
	+ How did geography affect expansion across the American continent?
	+ What drove our westward movement?
* Economics
	+ The North and South take different paths – what conditions existed that influenced the economic development in these regions?

Quarter 3

* War and Conflict
	+ How have our conflicts shaped us as a country?
* Civil War
	+ Was the Civil War a war for freedom?

Quarter 4

* Reform, Diversity, and Prejudice
	+ Did Americans experience freedom equally?
* Leadership and the Presidency
	+ What makes a good leader? How should we evaluate our presidents?
	+ What were some of our greatest challenges, and how did our early leaders respond to those challenges?

***Skills***

* California Content Standards for Social Studies and 2016 Social Studies Framework
	+ Chronological and spatial thinking
	+ Research, evidence, point of view
	+ Historical interpretation
	+ Inquiry based instruction
* Common Core literacy standards for Social Studies
	+ Reading and writing
* Historical thinking skills (Stanford History Education Group)
	+ source, context, corroboration, close reading