Curriculum Letter 8th Grade American History

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8th Grade United States History and Geography: Growth and Conflict

Course Description:
Welcome! The eighth grade course of study begins with an intensive review of the major ideas, issues and events preceding the founding of the nation. Students will then concentrate on the critical events of the period. These events include the American Revolution, the framing of the Constitution, Slavery, Industrialization, Westward Expansion, the Civil War and Reconstruction.

Parent and Student Communication Regarding Grades and Work Habits.
- Please check schoology for monitoring student progress.
- Preferred mode of contact – e-mail me through the school website for clarification of assignments, questions, or to request a phone conference.
- Students may also email me through schoology.

Learning Platforms:
Schoology: Our textbook is called Impact and is available on-line through an app in schoology. Schoology will also be the means for students to track their grades and contact their teacher. Additionally, students may be required to submit some of their assignments through this platform.
Nearpod is a presentation platform that will deliver class activities which involve annotation and vocabulary development. It is accessible through schoology.
Google Docs and Slides will allow students access to word processing software as well as slide making capabilities.
Renaissance Learning: will allow students access to ebooks on important events and people in American history.

Assessment Instruments:
- Tests and quizzes
- Class participation based on computerized Nearpod reports
- Google slide projects
- Google doc assignments
- Writing assignments/Constructed Responses
- Textbook based Questions

Late Assignments Policy:
- Students will not be allowed to turn in late homework.
- Late projects and writing assignments will be penalized at a rate of 5 points per day late. Very Late assignments may be turned in for 60% of the assignment value.

Recommended Materials:
- 1. Colored Pencils
- 2. Glue Sticks
- 3. Pencil Sharpener

CLASSROOM RULES AND PROCEDURES

WORK HABITS
1. Bring Supplies! Notebook, red pen, colored pencils, glue, and paper needed daily.
2. Pay Attention! What we do in class is important. Therefore do not work on assignments from other classes.
3. Start work promptly! Always do your best.
4. Hand in work on time
5. Do your own work. Copying from the internet, Copying from the internet and changing a few words, copying the work of another student and changing a few words are all forms of plagiarism.
6. Be Prepared! Get your textbook and take out needed supplies as soon as you enter the room. Be ready to start when the bell rings.
RUBRIC FOR EVALUATING WORK HABITS

E- Grade in course is an A or a B because the student is self-motivated, pays attention, and does not waste time. The student tries to do more than required by exceeding the expectations of the instructor. Student work demonstrates that they are challenging themselves. The student has all of their supplies. Student asks for missing work. The student scores Bs or better on exams. Student completes work and turns it in on time.

S- Grade in course is a C because the student starts work when directed by the teacher. Student completes work and turns most of it in on time. The student has their supplies. The student gets Cs on exams. Work effort meets the minimum expectation of the instructor. Student asks about makeup work.

U- Grade in course is a D or a F because the teacher needs to tell the individual student to start working. The student often does not have their supplies. Lots of work is incomplete or missing. The student gets Ds or lower on exams. Student work shows little effort and is below the expectations of the instructor. The Student does not ask about makeup work.

COOPERATION

1. Do not chew gum or eat in class.
2. Get permission before leaving your seat.
3. Raise your hand when asking or answering a question. Do not speak out.
4. Throw garbage out at the end of class.
5. Do not pass notes, throw pencils or objects, or text.
6. Keep your hands off other people and their property.
7. Show respect. Remain quiet when I or another student is talking. Do not put another student down. No profanity.
   Treat students as individuals by not stereotyping. If you disagree with a decision of mine, remain respectful. We can discuss the situation after class.

RUBRIC FOR EVALUATING COOPERATION

E- The student follows class rules. The student is respectful of the teacher and others. Student listens, stays in seat, and is on time. The student is ready to start when the bell rings.
S- The student usually follows class rules but is sometimes disruptive by talking, being out of their seat, arriving tardy, and is possibly interrupting class because they did not bring their supplies. The student usually has their textbook and computer before the bell. The Student shows respect to the teacher and others. The student changes their behavior when corrected by the teacher.
U- The student often breaks class rules. The student is frequently tardy (3+), out of their seat, not prepared to start, talking, throwing objects, or is disrespectful to the teacher or other students. Student does not change behavior when corrected by the teacher which requires the instructor to call home, set up a conference with your counselor, or refer the student to the dean or another teacher.

SPECIAL RULES

1. Let me know if you are sick or upset about something before class.
2. Each student will receive 2 passes a semester. A pass is good for 8 minutes. If you return after 8 minutes you have used 2 passes. Unused passes will be converted into 5 points of extra credit at the end of the semester. Passes will only be issued at appropriate times.

GRADES

You earn your grade by scoring points in this class. Every homework, quiz, map, essay, class assignment, and test is a scoring opportunity. Grades will be posted on Schoology. See me if you do not have access to Schoology. Grades are calculated by taking the number of points you earned divided by the number of points possible. 90% = A 80% = B 70% = C 60% = D Below 60% = F.

Note* All rules, procedures, and final grades are subject to change at the discretion of the instructor.