

Rm. B-15

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Office Hours: Before and after school and by appointment.

Tutoring: Tuesday from 2:30-3:30 and by student appointment.

Welcome to Mr. Quadri Mellish's class! (Esta carta será traducida. Se mandara a casa lo más pronto posible.)

Introduction/Purpose: In the 8th grade, students learn about how events throughout the history of the United States. Topics such as the Constitution, expansion west, the Civil War, the native peoples of America, and ultimately how the great diversity of America shaped the nation today will be taught. The main concern for students is to find ways to link the past with the present, to discover events that occurred many years ago that still have an impact today. It is important that students are self-disciplined, motivated and willing to discuss as well as learn about history. There will be a variety of ways to learn this topic but the greatest asset that the student has is their own drive to ask questions, read the necessary texts, and to prepare for any quizzes or tests.

Grading System and Pacing:

1. Tests/Quizzes/Final (35%): Students will have tests as well as quizzes to gauge their progression over the course of a subject or topic. Although these are for a grade, tests and quizzes also inform the teacher as to what has been understood and what has not. Since the main goal is to link all of these events and concepts together, it is important that the students are sure of one before going on to another. Grades in this portion will be based upon student growth from test to test. Students will have the opportunity to make up two tests per semester.
2. Homework/Classwork (20%): For the 8th grade, most work, reading, and projects will be done in class. I believe that students tend to better understand the concepts and ideas if they have somebody there so that they can ask questions immediately. The key point is that students must ask the questions so that they can clarify any concept or idea that they are unsure of in class. That is not to say that there will be no homework. There will be occasions when there is not ample time for the students to finish classwork, a project, or a reading and must complete it at home. Students will be given instructions in class on how to complete homework. Refer to their student planners to see what is due each week.
3. Projects (25%): Projects are a valuable part of a student's learning. It allows them hands-on experience as well as creativity to express their own thoughts. Projects will be done in class or at home, in pairs, groups, and sometimes on their own. Each project will connect to the material that they are learning in class and reflect their knowledge in a unique way.
4. Class Participation (20%): Class participation is a simpler aspect of the class. Showing up on time, being prepared, asking or answering questions, and constantly being a positive, active member of the class are a few of the ways that students can succeed in class participation. Although this seems like a high percentage (it is), getting students active instead of passive in their own learning allows them to explore the history of the world from their own points of view. Encourage your students to come to school with any questions that they may have before or have them write it down so they can give it to me. Let's get them active!

A 100-90%

B 89-80%

C 79-70%

D 69-60%

Periodization:

There will be six units of study that the students will be learning about and interacting with. Each unit is broken down into two or three chapters, each chapter broken down into sections. It is the goal of this classroom to complete each unit over the course of the year, approximately four units per semester.

Unit 1: Connecting with Past: Our Colonial Heritage (Beginnings to 1783)

Standard(s): 7.7, 7.11, 8.1, 8.2,

Unit 2: A New Nation (1777-1791)

Standard(s): 8.1, 8.2, 8.3, 8.4, 8.5, 8.9,

Unit 3: The New Republic (1812-1830)

Standard(s): 8.4, 8.5, 8.8

Unit 4: The Nation Expands (1790-1860)

Standard(s): 8.6

Unit 5: The Nation Breaks Apart (1861-1877)

Standard(s): 8.10,

Unit 6: A Growing America (1850-1929)

Standard(s): 8.8, 8.12

Overall, these units follow a path that allows students to better connect these topics to themselves and the world around them. It is the teacher's discretion to alter any section or unit if needed throughout the year.

Text: Deverell, William and Deborah Gray White. *United States History: Independence to 1914*. Holt, Rinehart, and Winston. Copyright 2006. (Students will be provided this book by the school to take home and may need to bring the book to class when directed. They will also be receiving a take home disposable booklet that accompanies the book. Students will also be using other text and reading materials throughout the course.

Academic Honesty: A student using another's work for any part of an assignment, for my class or for another, with or without the other student's permission, will be considered academically dishonest, given a referral and receive no credit for the assignment. This includes unauthorized collaboration and plagiarism (copying other students work).

Refer to the Audubon student handbook for more information.

Behavior and Classroom Rules:

1. Students and teacher will speak and act with respect towards one another and treat the classroom as if it were their own. Students will maintain dignity and respect when conversing with one another at all times, particularly during discussions and debates.
2. Students will enter the room quickly and efficiently; students who are late should respect the other students who have arrived on time and are already working.
3. All personal needs/discussion should take place outside of the classroom, use your passing period wisely.
4. Students will be on task at all times.
5. No food, drink, or other perishables are allowed except water, unless students are informed otherwise.

Tardy/Absence Policy:

In order to do well in this course, students will need to be on time and be present within the class. Students who are habitually late or absent will find that both their grade and citizenship will be affected. Participation in group projects, discussions, and debates are crucial to each student's grade, thus it is important that they are on time (in the class when the bell rings) and prepared.

Electronic Devices:

Students may not have out or have in use any electronic devices (iPods, phones, etc.) during class. Students who violate the electronic device rule will have their device confiscated.

Late and Make-up Work:

Students must turn in all assignments on the due date. Late assignments will be considered half-credit. If you are absent on the day an assignment is due, it is your responsibility to inquire as to what was missed and on what day it will be due. Students will be given the proper amount of time to finish an assignment if they are absent.

Tests and quizzes must be made up within one week from the original date. Students may make-up tests and quizzes during class if time is appropriate or at lunch. If students set a lunch time for the test or quiz and it is missed, they are given one final chance to make up that test or quiz but it must be within that same week.

Please sign and date. Due by 9/12/14 (Friday).

Parent/Guardian Name and Signature _____

Student Name and Signature _____
