

September 5, 2024

Dear Students and Families,

Welcome to 7th Grade Western Civilization. I am excited about the opportunity to get to know you, and I am looking forward to a happy and productive year.

Curriculum areas the class will focus on this year begin with an introduction to 7th Grade Western Civilization. We will begin with a study of the American colonies and the events that led to the Revolution. We will continue with a study of the Revolution and the governing structure in place under the Articles of Confederation. We will discuss the failures of the Articles that led to the Constitutional Convention and the birth of our Federal Government. We will then pivot in the second half of the year to a study of civics as we discuss our founding documents and the government of the United States.

Students are asked to bring the following supplies to class everyday:

- Charged Laptop
- Pen or Pencil
- Paper
- Binder or folder

Per Board Regulation 2624, the History Department's grading policy is as follows:

- Summative Assessments (Projects and Tests)- 60%
- Formative Assessments (Classwork/Homework/Quizzes)- 40%

Our homework and classwork are graded on a sliding scale. Homework is being assigned and completed by the students to reinforce what has been learned in class and to foreshadow what is going to be learned soon. To that end, homework is graded not on whether the answers are correct or incorrect but on whether the students put forth an effort to complete the assignment. Vocabulary assignments will be graded with a percentage of the number of words completed with acceptable answers (i.e., an answer to "George Washington" with the response of "A Space Alien" will receive no credit). All other homework is graded on a four-point scale:

- 4- means that the answer to the question is fully developed and relates to the question asked (Will be entered as a "100")
- 3- The answer relates to the question but is not fully developed (Will be entered as a "75")
- 2- The answer somewhat relates to the question and/or is somewhat developed (Will be entered as a "50")
- 1- The answer is only tangentially related to the question posed and/or the response is barely developed (Will be entered as a "25")
- 0- The answer is not related to the question at all and/or nothing turned in (Will be entered as a "0")

- Late assignments are accepted up to 10 school days late (with a 10% per day penalty), or until the unit assessment, whichever comes first. Assignments submitted after class but before the end of the school day will incur a 5% deduction. All homework is posted in the classroom, on Schoology, on Mr. Schwarz's website on the appropriate class page, which is located at <http://www.gpsd.us/domain/203> , or through the Remind app.

I use a soccer card-like system to carry out my in-class discipline policies. Students will receive a "yellow" card or a "red" card for various infractions of classroom or school rules (i.e., continually talking in class, playing games on laptop, etc.). If a student receives a "yellow" card, it is their final warning. Any further infractions or disruptions will result in a "red" card. A "red" card is an automatic lunch detention and a home contact. Three "yellow" cards in five classes have the same result as a "red" card. After three lunch detentions any further "red" cards will result in the student being referred to the office. I reserve the right to issue "red" cards without first issuing a "yellow" card or to refer a student to the office if required to do so by the school's discipline code.

Studies show that parental involvement in a child's education is one of the strongest indicators of student achievement. If you have any questions, concerns, or if you would like to schedule a conference you can contact Mr. Schwarz by phone at (856)-652-2700 x8244 or through email at mschwarz@gpsd.us.

Let us work together to make this the best year ever!

Sincerely,

Mr. Schwarz
Social Studies Teacher
Thomas E. Bowe Middle School