

Dear Parent or Guardian:

I will be your child's American History teacher this year. We will cover U.S. History from the late 18<sup>th</sup> century to the late 19<sup>th</sup> century and the role of economics in U.S. history. A few of the major units covered throughout American History this year will be the Constitution and Bill of Rights, Westward Expansion and Manifest Destiny, the Civil War and Reconstruction, Immigration and Industrialization, and Economics in U.S. History.

Let me explain how my class operates so you can be better equipped to help your child succeed. I use a program called *History Alive!* Your child will be asked to act out history by reading first person accounts of history, give reactions and opinions about lessons, and make their own interpretations of events of the past. There will be many assignments that may not have to do with the history book but with an overhead slide lecture or other teaching tools.

Grades will be earned in three areas or parts. Doing well in all three parts will ensure a successful year.

### **Part One - Student Notebook**

The students will be required to maintain a student notebook throughout the year. This is where homework is completed and assignments are graded. The student will draw, write, react, and analyze material in their notebook. The notebook will be collected and graded frequently. Neatness, completeness, and creativity will be what I look for in a good notebook. Students will bring their notebooks to class every day as they would a pen or pencil.

### **Part Two - Daily / Weekly Reinforcing and Extension Work**

Many times in a given week, students will work in pairs, groups, or individually to complete various assignments. Most of the assignments will be included in the student notebook. **If a parent / guardian would like to see the progress of their child, a look at the child's notebook should take care of any questions.** Graded notebook rubrics, or unit checklists, can be found at the end of each completed unit.

### **Part Three - Unit Assessments and Projects**

Students will take quizzes on each unit and tests on most units to assess their knowledge of the concepts and subjects being taught. For many units the students will be assigned a unit project in place of a final test. There will be some time in class to work on the project but usually not enough to complete it. Therefore, you should see your child working on projects from time to time at home.

If a student is absent from class, upon their return, they are responsible for checking with me for missed assignments and make-up work. This is a WAVE team policy for making up missed class work. This should be done during EO, before, or after school. Late work is frowned upon and can only earn up to 80% of the total points when graded. Late work will be accepted up until the end of each unit. Students will have ample time to complete assignments both in and out of class.

Rules for my class are simple and probably very similar to rules students have followed for years now. Student notebooks and needed materials should be brought to class every day. Everyone should be treated with respect, including other students and teachers. Students also need to be in class seated at their desks when the bell rings, ready to work. Finally, directions need to be listened to and followed the first time they are given.

If you have any questions, anytime, please feel free to contact me by phone at the school, 339-4300, by note, or by email, [piercjef@usd437.net](mailto:piercjef@usd437.net). My personal plan time is from 9:30-10:16 and the WAVE team plan is from 8:40-9:26. You may also check out my school web site which has links to information such as how to make a student notebook, classroom policies and procedures, and needed materials for history class. This website can be found by accessing the school website, clicking on WAVE team under “Staff Information”, and by clicking on my name under my picture. Or you can access the site directly by going to:

**<http://teacher.usd437.net/piercjef.php>**

Please sign and have your child return this *bottom portion of the letter* to me for a possible “Sand Dollar” which can be used in an upcoming team reward party. **Please keep the letter for your reference.** If you wish, you may sign another sheet of paper and send it instead.

I’m looking forward to a great year,

Jeff Pierce

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Student Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Comments/Questions: