

Dear Students,

2020-2021 School Year

I'm excited to have you in my United States honors history class this year. We'll have a fun-filled year with lots of learning. U.S. History Honors is a class that starts at the beginning and goes up through Civil War and Reconstruction. We also spend time learning about other areas of social studies including geography, current events, civics and government, good citizenship, etc. It is my goal that you'll not only know more about where we've been, but that you'll also know more about who we are as Americans, and what we can do to be involved and aware.

As a member of an honors class, you will have many enrichment opportunities. You will be required to read one historical fiction novel or nonfiction selection per quarter related to what we are studying. You will then be required to prepare a project on your reading. This project is considered an assessment. We will do a lot of thinking, writing, and discussion. You are expected to be involved and ready to answer questions and participate. More details about the various expectations will be given as we proceed through the year.

I do expect you to have a pencil or pen each day and a folder or section of your folder with paper. I also recommend that you have a set of colored pencils. You may also want to have your own small bottle of hand sanitizer. The school also provides this at various locations. We use a variety of materials as we study history. We have a class set of textbooks, and you will be given the option of checking out a text if you would like to have one at home. We will be using Canvas school-wide as our online tool. We will be doing a variety of both online and hard copy assignments, but course work will be posted on Canvas as we progress through the quarter. It is important to bring your Chromebook computer charged with you each day to class.

We'll also do a writing reflection every Friday. You'll be creating your own personal history about your eighth grade year. We'll keep these writings in an online format, and they will be compiled into a journal at the end of the year. You are also able to come to school on Fridays to get extra help and relearn material.

We have a variety of projects, test and quizzes, and daily assignments. You'll learn about these as we go. Grades are organized in categories that are weighted 80% assessments and 20% assignments. Check your grade often as I try to keep grades updated a couple of times a week. Assignments are due at the first of class. Students who do their work on time almost always do better and learn more. You will need to turn in a late assignment voucher with assignments that are not completed on time. Assignments that are late will be accepted for up to two weeks after the end of each unit. No absent or late work is accepted the last week of the quarter. Students may relearn and retake assessments to ensure mastery. It is always best to prepare and perform your best the first time. Students who wish to retake an assessment need to complete the requirements before retaking a test or quiz.

Good behavior is expected and will help create a positive learning environment. Good behavior means coming prepared each day, being respectful and on time, displaying a winning attitude, and being ready to listen and learn. Honors students turn their work in on time. Cell phones and other electronics are not allowed in class and should be out of sight. Occasionally, we may use phones or music with permission, but otherwise they should be put away at all times. Of course, your behavior will be reflected in your citizenship grade.

We may be watching all or parts of the following movies to support our history curriculum: Squanto: A Warrior's Tale, Monty Python and the Holy Grail (clips only), and either Glory (edited for education version) or Gettysburg. If your parents don't want you to view one of the listed films, they can email me at kimberly.player@jordandistrict.org. Consider this your notification.

In this time of a pandemic, please stay home if you are sick or if you have a known Covid exposure. I will help you get caught up. You are **REQUIRED** to wear a face covering in this class and throughout the school. Masks should cover both nose and mouth. Together we can do our best to keep one another healthy. The key word this year is flexible. I promise to be patient and helpful and kind, and I would expect the same of you. We can do this!

I'm sure we'll have a great year together. As we move to standards-based grading, know that I am learning along with you. We will be focusing on specific state standards and learning them well. Come to me if anything is unclear or feels unfair. Please know that I want to help you to have the best experience in my class. Let me know how I can help you.

Mrs. Kimberly J. Player
Honors United States History