

**August 17, 2023**

Dear Parents/Guardians,

I am excited to begin my 20th year teaching, and I look forward to meeting my new group of students!

The goal of my class is to excite students and help them gain a solid understanding and appreciation of American History. Eighth-grade standards cover everything from Colonial History through the Industrial Revolution. Not only will students learn the foundations of American Democracy, but it is my aim to help them to understand the importance of becoming a well-informed/active participant in our Democracy.

All of my lessons are standards based and I encourage parents to view the standards at: <https://www.cde.ca.gov/ci/hs/cf/hssframework.asp>

I have attached a copy of my procedures and classroom rules. Please review and explain the importance of these procedures for the benefit of all.

In order for your child to be successful in my class, we must work together. I will guide your child through each lesson. It will be their job to get an understanding (ask questions if they don't understand), complete their work, and turn it in on time.

I look forward to working with you and your child this school year. If you have any questions or comments, please do not hesitate to email, call or reach out to me using Parent Square. I can be reached at 631-5240 Monday through Friday between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. You may also reach me by email at [barkerm@bcsd.com](mailto:barkerm@bcsd.com). You are much more likely to hear from me faster via e-mail/Parent Square.

Thanks for your support and understanding.  
Sincerely,

**Mrs. Monica Barker**  
Eighth-grade U.S. History

# **Mrs. Barker's Classroom Procedures**

## **Everyday Required Materials**

- Pencils and Pens
- History Folder (provided by teacher)
- Backpack
- Three-ring binder (optional, but it is a good idea to have)

## **During Class**

- Enter the room quietly, respectfully and **on time**.
- Use your class time wisely and do not keep others from learning.
- Even if you are not working directly with the teacher, you need to remain on task.
- **Students will not be permitted to distract others from learning while in small groups or during whole class activities.**
- Food and drinks are not allowed in the classroom with the exception of a bottle of water.
- Cell phones are not permitted. \*When students have phones on our campus they will keep them in their backpack at all times during the school day. Warning #1 - I will have the student put it in my drawer and they are allowed to have it back at the end of class. #2 - Teacher takes the phone to the office and the student may retrieve it at the end of the day. #3 - The phone is taken to the office and a parent or guardian must come to pick it up.

## **What to do when you miss an assignment**

- Work completed after due dates, when there is an excused absence, is given full credit. Late work = 60% credit.
- **MAKE UP THE WORK**-Work not being made up is the #1 reason why students receive poor grades in my class.

## **Tardies**

- Students who arrive late will be given a verbal warning.
- Parents will be notified via Parent Square if they fail to come on time more than twice . 3 tardies during a given quarter will result in detention.

## **Grades:**

Classwork = 50%

Tests/Projects/Quizzes = 30%

Participation = 20% ----- *Being on time and engaged will really help your grade!*

# Classroom Rules

- Be kind and respectful.
- Be on time and prepared.
- Always give your best effort.