



Honors U.S. History – Mrs. Whalen

Welcome to 8th grade American History class. We will be studying the history of the United States from colonization through Reconstruction (1607 – 1877). The first semester begins with a short review of the exploration of the western hemisphere and will end with a study of the Constitution and the Bill of Rights. The second semester begins with the presidency of George Washington and ends with the Civil War and Reconstruction. In April, all students will be required to take the 8th grade social studies STAAR test over the material that we have covered in this course.

History Spiral and Technology Device – Required – EVERYDAY!

Throughout the year, you will be creating a journal with all of the information you have learned in 8th Grade U.S. History. Even though most of your work will be done on your technology device, it is important that you have a notebook to take handwritten notes as well. You must bring your journal to class with you EVERY DAY! You must purchase a 150 Page Spiral. A variety of notes will be kept in your journal, including class notes and daily work. Keeping this journal consistently throughout the school year will teach you valuable organizational skills, creativity, and independence as a thinker and writer. When you return from an absence, it is *your* responsibility to bring your journal up to date. You must get any notes you may have missed and record them in your spiral in the appropriate place. Missing information, for any reason, will count against your grade.

Grading Policy for Comal ISD is in the student handbook

*** Tutoring is Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday Morning and any afternoon by appointment.**

Optional Supplies:

- Boxes of tissues (we go through quite a bit throughout the year)
- Highlighters
- Colored pencils/markers (if you would like to donate some to the class that would be much appreciated)
- Erasers (if you would like to donate them to the class it would be much appreciated)

Absences:

It is the student’s responsibility to ask for any make-up work or missed assignments if they are absent. If the student is absent for 3 or more consecutive days, I will be reaching out to the parent/guardian. If a test is missed, the student will need to make it up the week they come back to school. If an assignment is due while the student is absent, they will have 2 days before it is considered “late”.

Late Work:

For each day an assignment is overdue, I will take off 10 points. If a week has passed and the assignment is yet to be turned in, it is now a zero and will not be accepted.

If you have any questions about the course or your child’s progress, please stay updated with grades on Skyward or email me at melanie.whalen@comalisd.org

I have read Mrs. Whalen’s expectations and understand what it will take to have a successful year.

Student Name: _____ Period _____ Date: _____

Student Signature _____

Parent or Guardian Name: _____ Date: _____

Parent or Guardian Signature _____

Student Information Sheet

This page is about getting to know you. It should be filled out by you

Last name: _____ First Name: _____

What I like to be called: _____ Date of Birth: _____

Student Email: _____

Where were you born? (City, State) _____

What is your favorite class? (Lunch doesn't count 😊) _____

Where did you go to school last school year? _____

Brothers and/or Sisters: (grade level)

What activities are you involved in when you are not in classes?
(School sports, city sports, music, hobbies)

If you could travel to one place in this world, where would it be? _____
Why? _____

What is your heritage...? (African, Mexican, Puerto Rican, Italian, English, German, Japanese, etc.)
List as many as needed. (American is your Nationality. Your heritage is where your ancestors first
lived prior to coming to America)

If you had all the power in the world, what would you change?

Explain Why? _____

What would you like me to know about yourself to help you be successful in class this year?

Who is the parent to call/contact regarding academic/behavior communication?

Parent or Guardian's Name (PRINT): _____

Circle the best way to contact during school hours:

Email - Cell – Home – Work

Email: _____ Cell Phone: _____

Home Phone: _____

Work Phone: _____