**UNITED STATES HISTORY**

**Mr. Miller**

**2017-2018**



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**Website:** [**http://gmiller.buchananschools.com**](http://gmiller.buchananschools.com)(daily agenda, syllabus, text & atlas book links, video links)

**Room Number: #115**

**Content Covered**

This year we will cover United States history beginning with early Native American Settlements & European Exploration thru the end of the United States Civil War.

1. Unit 1:“Settling the New World & Life in the Colonies” will be chapters 1-4.
2. Unit 2: “Creating New Governments and a New Constitution” will be Chapters 5-11.
3. Unit 3: “Expansion and Reform” will be chapters 12-18.
4. Unit 4: “The Civil War & Reconstruction will be chapters 19-23

**Grading Procedures and Policies**

1. **Grading Scale:** 90-100% A 80-89% B 70-79% C 60-69% D 0-59% F
2. **Homework:** Approximately 70% of the grade will be based on tests, quizzes, and projects. Your student’s homework every night will be to review their notes for upcoming tests & quizzes. On some occasions students will be asked to review documents or video clips via my website, and be prepared to discuss the next day. Finally, occasionally students will have homework, however it is likely the result of not using class time efficiently.
3. **Class Participation:** The class is structured to encourage discussion pertaining to learning targets. If a student chooses not to participate they will find the content less interesting, and the assessments quite challenging. The analogy I make to the students is: “If you sat on the sideline every day and watched someone practice a sport, and then when the games came around you decided you wanted to play that sport; who do you think would better at that sport? The student who participated each day in practice, or the student who sat on the sidelines and watched?”
4. **LATE WORK**: Once a chapter test has been taken and passed back all late work (journals, projects, vocabulary, atlas worksheets, etc.) for that chapter is no longer accepted.
5. **Late Work Penalty:** For every day an assignment is late the grade will be reduced by 10% up to a maximum of 40% (4 days or later).
6. **Test Retakes:** Test Retakes are available, but only by appointment. Additionally, test retakes must be taken within one week of the student receiving their original grade.
7. **Forgotten Materials:** Occasionally students will forget their materials in their locker or previous classrooms. When this occurs they may use one of their 4 (per semester) bathroom or locker passes to retrieve materials. Once they have exhausted those passes students will be allowed to retrieve their materials from their locker or previous classroom, ***but the student will be marked tardy*** as they were not prepared at the beginning of the class period.

**Behavior Expectations and Rules:**

It is my goal to make the class both engaging, educational, and fun. However, ultimately it falls on the students to engage in behaviors and actions that enable the classroom to be both fun and enriching. As a result I have instituted the following classroom rules to help ensure we maintain a positive learning environment for all students.

1. PLEASE DO NOT DISRUPT THE LEARNING ENVIRONMENT OF YOUR FELLOW STUDENTS.
2. Please have a positive attitude and give your best effort.
3. Please be prepared and on time.
4. Please respect yourself, your classmates, the substitute teachers
5. Please raise your hand if you want to: share something with the class; get out of your seat; or if you have a question.
6. Please sit at your assigned seat.
7. Cell phones are not allowed to be out in my class. Per the High School cell phone policy a phone that is out will be taken and given to the office until a parent or guardian comes and retrieves it.
8. Please no hats or backpacks are allowed in the class. The issue of back packs is the result of my room being extremely small, and we have found the backpacks become a tripping hazard.

**Due Process**

1. Verbal Warning
2. 30 Second Timeout in the Hallway followed by discussion with student on how we both can remedy the situation.
3. Lunch or After School Detention along with a parent contact via email or phone call
4. Referral to Assistant Principal Pruett
5. All behavior violations (bullying, threats, disrespect to substitute teacher) will result in automatic referral. **Additionally, some behavior may be so egregious that steps 1-3 are skipped.**

**Bathroom & Locker Passes**

Every student is allotted four bathroom or locker passes to use at their discretion each semester. Once that student eclipses their four pass limit they may still go to their locker and restroom, however it will cost them a detention (lunch/afterschool). **Emergencies will arise, and the policy is flexible for emergencies.**

**Attendance & Tardies**

It is the expectations that students are in their seat when the bell rings. Each day there will be a daily agenda on the television so they can see our learning goals and activities for the day. Students may copy this into their agenda, or view it later via my website.  **The following are the building policies regarding tardies and absence.**

1. **Ten or more absences (excused or not excused): Student must earn a 77% on the mid-term or final exam to earn credit for the class.** 
   1. **Unexcused Absence: You have 24 hours to call in regarding your son or daughter’s absence. If an absence goes unexcused, student will have automatic detention.**
2. **Tardy: When a student receives a fifth tardy, they will have a detention. For EVERY TARDY after the fifth tardy (six, seven, eight, nine) they will also receive a detention.**

I hereby acknowledge that I was informed of Mr. Miller’s classroom policies, expectations, and procedures including the grading system of Mr. Miller’s 8th Grade U.S. History class. I understand that I was given this information so that I would have a clear understanding of what is expected of me to ensure that I have a safe, positive, and educational school year.

First & Last Name (Print): \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Student Signature:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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