

# Welcome Mud Turtles!

8<sup>th</sup> grade American History

*Mrs. Klappauf*

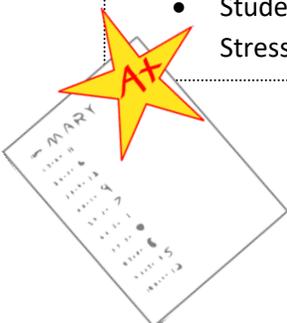
## Course Overview:

- The 8<sup>th</sup> grade American history curriculum prepares our students for their high school level courses. This year we will be focusing on three units: ***Immigration, Industrialization and Urbanization*** of the United States during the early 20<sup>th</sup> century, ***Conflicts Between Nations and Societies*** and the expanding role of the United States as a world power, and the basic principles of ***Economics***.
- Students will be practicing and developing various skills throughout the year: note-taking, study habits, test-taking skills, time management, research, presentation skills, teamwork, and critical thinking. Throughout the year the students will have many opportunities to work in cooperative groups.
- One of our primary goals will be to connect our study of American history to our modern-day lives, so along with our textbook and primary source materials, we will also be utilizing the *Junior Scholastic* news magazine and various historical literature.



## Grading Policy:

- The students will be assessed using a variety of instruments including tests, quizzes, presentations, projects, and essays. These may be written or performance-based.
- Please remember what our letter grades mean. A=**Superior**-exceeds requirements, shows independent resourcefulness, neat and concise; B=**Above Average**-accurate and complete, meets all requirements, neat; C=**Average**-merely meeting the assignment, very ordinary, neat; D=**Below Average**-not meeting some expectations or requirements, incomplete, sloppy; F=**Failing**-does not meet expectations or requirements, shows lack of effort, sloppy.
- It is my policy to provide a rubric at the onset of a project or a large assignment. Please refer to it for explicit directions and expectations.
- Projects/tests, classroom work/quizzes, and homework are graded on points. Typically, projects/tests are weighted at 50%, classroom work/quizzes are weighted at 35%, and homework is weighted at 15% of the total points.
- Students should speak with me if there is difficulty with any assignment or assessment. Stressed students are not successful students!



## Classroom Expectations:

- There are three things to remember: **Be Respectful, Be Responsible, and Be Safe.**
- All school policies will be enforced including, but not limited to, inappropriate language, dress code, unauthorized cell phone use, tardiness, plagiarism, and gum chewing.
- I expect my students to be prepared for class and in their seats at the appropriate time. We do not have bells, except for first period, so it is your responsibility to keep track of the time.
- Participation in discussion and class activities is crucial for success in this class.
- Cheating of any kind is not tolerated and will result in a score of zero, as well as disciplinary action.
- Parents and students have access to the *Skyward* portal. I will post homework and, sometimes, messages each day by 4:00PM. It is your responsibility to check *Skyward* daily.
- Additionally, homework for all classes will be posted daily on the Mud Turtles' web site



## Required Materials:

- Agenda or assignment book
- A folder dedicated to history
- A spiral notebook/loose leaf paper
- Writing utensils-pencils, pens, highlighters
- Colored pencils



## Late Work:

- **All work is expected to be completed.**
- I am very selective with assignments and projects, so I truly believe that there is something to be learned from each piece of work I ask the students to do.
- I provide due dates and expect the students to adhere to them.
- If a student has an incomplete or late assignment, they will be instructed to attend Work Room during their lunch period the following school day. Students will attend Work Room until all work is completed. You may refer to the attached letter for more details.
- If assignments are not complete, they will be marked **MISSING** in the grade book until they are submitted. Missing assignments seriously affect averages.
- Please do not make this a habit!



### **Extra Credit:**

- Since I expect all students to complete all of the work, there really is no need for extra credit.
- Sometimes, though, I may insert bonus questions on tests or quizzes.
- There will be a few times during the year that I ask students to bring in special materials, such as a news article or a political cartoon. I may award extra points for these efforts.
- No individualized extra credit will be offered.



### **Attendance:**

- Upon returning from an absence, it is the student's responsibility to acquire and complete all make-up work.
- Our district policy reminds parents that when a student is absent from school more than two days, assignments may be obtained that can be completed at home. For homework requests, please call the school office before 9:30 a.m. Necessary materials will then be available for pick-up in the office that day after 2:30 p.m. Requests made after 9:30 a.m. will be honored the following day.
- I will be happy to respond to email from students and parents requesting missed work, even if the student has been absent for only one day.
- It is difficult to predict assignments for children taking extended vacations. Some homework may be provided; however, it is likely that much of the work will need to be made up after the student returns to school. The student will make up all missed assignments and exams within a time period equal to the number of days absent from school plus one.

### **Contact Information:**

- Email is an excellent way to communicate. Please do not hesitate to use it. My email address is [klappaufk@mokena159.org](mailto:klappaufk@mokena159.org)
- You may also wish to check out my web page [mrsklappauf.weebly.com](http://mrsklappauf.weebly.com)
- Of course, the phone works well, too! 708-342-4870



Please read this information over with your parents/guardians. Fill out and sign this page and return it to me by \_\_\_\_\_.

Class period (circle one):                      1   2   5   7

Student name (print): \_\_\_\_\_

Student signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/guardian name (print): \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/guardian signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Comments or questions you may have:

Please provide the following and indicate your preferred method of communication:

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ / Email: \_\_\_\_\_

