**“Non scholae sed vitae discimus”**

**We learn not for school, but for life.**

**Expectations for the year**

We will have an amazing school year together learning all about the history of our country. I will work hard to provide you the opportunity to succeed. I will tell you now, **if you try and work hard, you will succeed in this class**. Please come to class with a positive attitude, and be ready to learn. I will also expect you to complete all assignments given in class. These assignments are picked out to help you learn the content, and your overall success will rely heavily on the completion of this work (not only for your homework grade, but also for test preparation). This is a very important class because you need the credit and to pass the STAAR in order to graduate on time. Please give me, and yourself, 100%. And do not hesitate to come in for help if you need it. Please let me know when you plan to come in for tutoring, so that I can make sure to be in my room and ready to help you. If you need to come in during non-tutoring hours, just ask and I will do my best to accommodate your needs!

**Rules/Consequences/Rewards**

Classroom Rules:

1. Respect yourself, and respect others.
2. Come to class prepared and on time.
3. Honesty, always.
4. Follow directions the first time they are given.
5. Follow all school and district rules.

Consequences:

(Depending on the severity of the action, any number of the following may happen.)

Verbal reminder, referral, contact home by phone, email, or letter, conference with parents and/or administration, sent to AP’s, IBS, OSS.

Rewards:

Praise, contact home by phone, email, or letter, various other positive perks and privileges, and THE JOY OF LEARNING!

**Grading**

Grading Period Grades:

Daily Work/Formative = 40% 1st Semester = 1-3 Grading Periods & Final

Major/Summative = 60% 2ndSemester = 4-6 Grading Periods

Grades are almost always updated daily. Please sign up so you can view your grades online. You can also come see me for an individual print out of your grades.

There will be several extra credit opportunities made available throughout the year, take me up on these offers when they are given. I will not give out on an individual basis.

**Excused/Unexcused Absences Policy**

Excused:

* It is your responsibility to pick up your missed work after an excused absence. Please check the classroom calendar to see what you missed. All extra papers can be found in the class binder. Please take one on your own during an appropriate time during class.
* You will have one week to make up work and/or tests. If the assignment or test is not made up within five school days, it will be considered late (see late work policy).

Unexcused:

* If you are unexcused, you forfeit the information that was given in class. Please ask another student for notes. Work can still be turned in, but for 50% credit.

As always, if there are any extenuating circumstances regarding your absences, or need for more days to complete work, please come talk to me. I will always be fair!

**Late Work**

Please turn your homework in on time in your class basket. Unless there are extenuating circumstances or you require modifications, late work will be worth -10% each day it is late. Late work can only be turned in for the current unit we are studying.

**Tardiness and Passes**

Tardiness:

Please use your time wisely while passing between classes. Enough time is given so that everyone can make it before the tardy bell. If you are late, come in quietly. Do not interrupt me or class.

Passes:

Again, I do understand that emergencies and needs will arise during class time. If it is an emergency, please tell me and go. Otherwise, please try to wait for an appropriate time to ask for a pass (i.e. not while I am in the middle of instruction or directions). Also, if I believe you are starting to abuse the policy, and are asking for too many passes, I will say no. So please only ask if it is necessary. Only one student will be allowed the pass at a time. So if you ask, and somebody is already using it, you will have to wait.

**Cheating**

Activities which involve cheating, copying, or plagiarizing are considered to be academic problems for which academic penalties will be enforced. The most severe cases will result in an automatic zero, without the option to make it up. Don’t risk it!

**I reserve the right to make changes regarding these policies throughout the year. You will always know in advance, if such changes occur.**

**Again, please talk to me anytime. It is my job to provide you a quality education, and safe place to learn. I will always respect you and I expect the same in return. Now let’s make our time together enjoyable and learn about our country!**