**American History**

**Course Description:**

This course reviews the events that affected the United States from industrialization in late 1800s through events of the 21st century. Major topics include America during 1870s and industrialization; immigration and cultural changes; Progressive reforms; World War I; the 1920s; the Great Depression and the New Deal; World War II; the Cold War; social and civil rights reforms; the Vietnam War; Watergate years; Reaganomics; end of Cold War; Bush, Clinton years; war on terrorism in 21st century; and the Obama administration. Students will reinforce map skills, interpret primary documents, and strengthen written and verbal communication of historical information.

Current events related to the discipline will be incorporated into lessons. Guest speakers will support various concepts.

Notes are posted on the class website as are major assignments and projects. Students are expected to participate and speak in class on a regular basis. Assignments are typically given in advance with more than one day to complete.

**Topics Covered:**

Chapter 18 The Western Frontier

Chapter 19 The Growth of Industry

Chapter 20 Toward an Urban America

Chapter 21 Progressive Reforms

Chapter 22 Overseas Expansion

Chapter 23 World War I

Chapter 24 The Jazz Age

Chapter 25 The Depression and FDR

Chapter 26 World War II

Chapter 27 The Cold War Era

Chapter 28 America in the 50s

Chapter 29 The Civil Rights Era

Chapter 30 The Vietnam Era

Chapter 31 Search for Stability

Chapter 32 New Challenges 1981-Present

**Projects:** Various projects throughout the school year

**Current Events:**

An important part of this class is the regular discussion of current events. Students are expected to add to the discussion of events. Some current events will result in different opinions and feelings depending on the issue. It is important that students express their thoughts appropriately and that they are respectful of those opinions with which they disagree.

**Class Rules:**

1. Be Prepared
2. Be respectful
3. Have Fun

Discipline is rarely an issue in this class and is typically resolved before formal disciplinary steps need to be taken. No food, drinks, sleeping, hats or ear buds. Inappropriate use of cell phones or any other electronic devices is grounds for a classroom detention or other disciplinary measures. Students must sign out and take a pass when they leave class for any reason. Participation points are deducted for behavior issues.

**Grading:**

90-100 A

80-89 B

70-79 C

60-69 D

0-59 F

Grades are earned by the student and not given by the teacher. Grades are based on earned points divided by total points that come from tests, quizzes, assignments, homework and projects. Generally there is no extra credit and periodic bonus points can be earned.

**Absences & Makeup Work:**

It is the student’s responsibility for any missed work. Assignments are posted on Sapphire and it is important that both the student and parent/guardian check their grades regularly for any missed assignments or grading concerns. No tests can be made up during regular class. Students need to make arrangements to take any makeup tests.

**Textbook:** The American Journey (Glencoe 2007)

**Contact Information:**

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I have read and understand the course syllabus and class guidelines: American History

Student (Print) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Student (Sign) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Parent (Print) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Parent (Sign) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_