**Welcome to CWI!**

Current World Issues is a half year class that encourages students to explore national and international contemporary issues though a variety of lenses. While we will focus on headlines daily, we will also work in broad units of study starting with a particular continent, and then dealing with historical and current issues regarding geography, global and local conflict, and trade and technology and the environment for that continent. Within these units of study we will explore issues “below the fold” and beyond “page 6” (Bonus for whoever gets those references!)

This class will be *very* interactive and student participation in sharing news, thoughts and opinions is required. This is critical for our class to be successful. You, as students will have the unique opportunity to guide the specific topics we analyze within the broad units of study.

I will encourage and moderate debate, especially as we are building into a Presidential election year. I will only tolerate respectful and well-reasoned debate and there will be *absolutely no* name calling or belittling of others opinions.

Below is a permission slip for your parents to sign regarding material we may see or watch over this course. Please return by Tuesday September 6th

I am very much looking forward to this class! Please let me know if you have any questions!

You can always email me at jhaskell@mpsri.net

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Dear Parents,

Throughout this course we will be delving into some difficult topics and one way to do this is to watch live and pre-recorded news and current documentaries. Some of these may be graphic with strong language and violence. These might not be things your child is accustomed to seeing. I want to make sure you as parents are aware of this as some of our topics will hopefully lead to conversations at home. Please know that we will not spend all our class time on the negative news, one of our areas of exploration is to figure out why the media concentrates so heavily on the negative and why we typically need to search for “happy” news. Please don’t hesitate to contact me at jhaskell@mpsri.net if you have any questions or concerns!

I have also started a Twitter account that will serve as a outside of the classroom communication for links to articles that are pertinent to the class. Students will be expected to follow me @HaskellHistory. Please feel free to follow me as well. I will NEVER follow students – this is a way for me to communicate class reminders and articles relating to our class. I also have a website HaskellHistory@weebly.com.

All the best,

I give my child \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ permission to watch news broadcasts and documentaries that pertain to the CWI class.

Parent Signature\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Jennifer Haskell