**Welcome to Mrs. Haskell’s U.S. History I 2016-17**

Over the course of the year we will be covering a good amount of material, from the European colonization of North America, through Imperialism. I am very enthusiastic about teaching this course and I am looking forward to jumping right in with you! We will cover current events though out the year so that we can make connections with what has happened in the past and how it relates to the world we live in today. It is very important that students learn *why* studying history is so important and how it matters *you.* It does – really!

Together we will be putting together a set of class rules that will work for all of us, to make the most of our time together. A couple of non-negotiable “ground rules” from me:

* Absolutely no cell phones during class time – UNLESS directed by me or you have asked permission. Cell phones being used without permission will be taken to the office for a parent or guardian to pick up. If you refuse to give up your phone, you will receive a 1 day in school suspension.
* Get work in on time – get full credit! (Exceptions will be made for excused absences with work being made up in a reasonable amount of time)
* Plagiarism – there is no excuse and all incidences will be dealt with per the Student Handbook. If you ever have a question of formatting – ask!
* Positive voices only! I fully expect and encourage lively debate and will never treat anyone’s *opinion* as wrong. It is very important that no one ever feels attacked, made fun of or put down for an answer, question or thought he or she might have.

**Grade Breakdown**

Tests: 40%

Quizzes: 30%

Classwork: 20%

Homework: 10%

**Bring a designated US History binder to class every day.**

Sections for your binder should include:

* Homework
* Classwork
* Tests and Quizzes

**Text book:**

We have class sets of hardcover books and each student will have access to text books online. Students will be able to download textbooks and assignments on a home computer, tablet, ipod, smartphone. Students will be given training and access codes very soon.

I can be reached most efficiently by email at [jhaskell@mpsri.net](mailto:jhaskell@mpsri.net). I am always willing to meet with students and parents. I am available afterschool and during advisory for make-up and extra help.

***Please return the following slip by no later than Tuesday, September 6th***

Dear Parent/ Guardian,

Please take a moment and read the Introduction to History 1 sheet and Plagiarism Awareness sheet your child received today. They explain a bit about of this course and basic class expectations and grade guidelines. Please contact me if you have any questions!

Over the course of the year and as part of our class time we will be viewing videos. The videos will include interactive films, documentaries, cartoons, reenactments and movies.

The videos will depict actual topics that are being discussed in class and I always view the videos first to assess its connection with class curriculum and appropriate for all students maturity level. Some of the videos I show brief nudity (non-sexual, such as National Geographic), graphic language and graphic violence. Throughout two units I will be using the soundtrack from the smash hit musical “Hamilton” which does contain some strong language.

Please understand that if you do not wish your child to view these clips, it will not affect them in any manner concerning their grade. Alternate assignments will be given.

Please sign the form below and have your child return it to me so I may keep it on file. If you have any questions please contact me at [jhaskell@mpsri.net](mailto:jhaskell@mpsri.net).

Sincerely,

Jennifer Haskell

I give my son/daughter\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ permission to view selected videos in US History I.

Parent/Guardian Signature

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I have read the US History 1 syllabus and Plagiarism Awareness sheets.

Parent/Guardian Signature

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**Plagiarism Awareness For Students and Parents**

Plagiarism is an issue that I take very seriously. With most students having access to the Internet , it is sometimes thought of as easier to copy and paste work by someone else than to do the research and write one owns essay. Plagiarism is much more complicated that just copying and pasting someone else’s work however.

As defined by the Oxford Dictionary:

“The practice of taking someone else’s work or ideas and passing them off as one’s own”

According to the website: [www.plagiarism.org](http://www.plagiarism.org)

**ALL OF THE FOLLOWING ARE CONSIDERED PLAGIARISM:**

* turning in someone else's work as your own
* copying **words or ideas** from someone else without giving credit
* failing to put a quotation in quotation marks
* giving incorrect information about the source of a quotation
* changing words but copying the sentence structure of a source without giving credit

copying so many words or ideas from a source that it makes up the majority of your work, whether you give credit or not

Please refer to the following site with your student and please contact me with any questions.

http://www.plagiarism.org/plagiarism-101/what-is-plagiarism/

The following is a website that will also be very useful to your student in this class and any others where writing is expected.

https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/

Sincerely,

Jennifer Haskell