

# Mr. Hunt

## United States History 8

### 2017-18 School Year—Pacific Trails Middle School

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"Go confidently in the direction of your dreams! Live the life you've imagined." —Henry David Thoreau

#### DEAR PARENTS AND STUDENT:

Welcome to U.S. History 8! I am very excited to have the privilege of teaching you/your child during the 2017-18 school year. This course examines the political, economic and social developments in the United States from early colonial times through Reconstruction. Particular emphasis is placed on examining the political values on which our nation was based, as well as issues and events that affected its continued development. For information about our course schedule, assignments, and general class-related materials, please check our class website found at the link listed above. In addition, many assignments will be posted to Google Classroom, an online tool for managing some of the workflow in our class—I will provide more information to students about this soon. As you read the following course expectations, please keep in mind that I am committed to your success. Please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions or concerns that you might have. Thank you, and I look forward to working with you on an exciting upcoming school year!

#### WHAT ARE SOME OF THE UNITS WE WILL STUDY THIS YEAR?

Geography, Culture, & the Study of History

The First Americans—Native-American Societies

Our Colonial Heritage

The American War for Independence

The Constitution & The Bill of Rights

The New Republic & Early Political Developments

Westward Expansion

The Civil War & Reconstruction

#### COURSE STRUCTURE

1. **Classwork/homework:** keep up with all classwork and homework assignments. Homework should be submitted by the due date. Late work will lose points. Classwork will be checked periodically and generally collected on the day of the unit exam. Study guides are designed to help you succeed on exams and will also be collected on the day of the unit exam.
2. **Assessments:** There are usually 1-2 quizzes per unit. These are given in order to check for understanding on the current unit of study and to help prepare you for unit exams. While quizzes are usually 10-20 term-matching assessments, unit exams are multiple-choice tests and between 30-35 questions.
3. **Essays/projects:** Periodically you will be assigned a short essay and other independent or group projects. These are designed to help you sharpen your critical thinking skills and creativity. Essays and projects are typically begun in class and finished at home. One research project will be completed each semester.

#### RECOMMENDED MATERIALS FOR HISTORY CLASS

The following materials are encouraged. If you have trouble obtaining any of the materials, please let me know so we can make an accommodation.

1. 3-ring binder with dividers (for classwork & homework). This binder can be combined with another class.
2. Lined notebook paper, pens, and pencils.
3. Colored pencils, a sharpie, and a glue stick are optional, but will come in handy.
4. Technology, such as a smart phone, is helpful, and will be used periodically in class.

#### TEXTS

*History Alive! The United States Through Industrialism*, TCI (these do not leave the classroom).

## **CLASSROOM EXPECTATIONS**

When the bell rings, please be in your assigned seat with your phone on silent and put away, and be ready to work. You will be considered tardy if not in your seat and ready to work when the bell rings. In addition, please be mindful of the following class expectations:

1. Treat yourself and others with kindness and respect.
2. Do your best work.
3. Open yourself to new ideas and different points of view.
4. Take responsibility for your own learning.
5. Food and drink are not permitted in class without permission (water is okay).

## **DISCIPLINE POLICY**

Depending on the violation, the student may receive a warning, the denial of class privileges, a seating change, parent contact, or a referral to Mrs. Storey or Mrs. Nuskin's office. Our classroom is a supportive environment, so being proactive and solving problems before they escalate is best. I will monitor situations to the best of my ability, but do not hesitate to see me if you are experiencing any difficulties. Remember, I'm here to help.

## **PERSONAL TECHNOLOGY**

Personal technology plays an important role in our academic lives, and students will have an opportunity to use their phones/electronic devices in an academic context. However, when the tardy bell rings, ALL personal technology must remain off and put away unless otherwise directed. Repeated warnings will result in confiscation of the device, which can be picked up at the end of the school day by a parent or guardian. Parents who need to contact their child during school hours should call the PTMS office at 858-509-1000.

## **ASSIGNMENTS & LATE WORK POLICY**

It is crucial that all classwork and homework assignments are completed on time. All assignments are due on the assigned date, with the exception of absences (see below). Assignments are given in advance, so plan your time well using the class schedule on our webpage. Late work will be accepted, but it will lose a letter grade each class period it is late (the lowest is half credit). No late work for the unit will be accepted after the unit has passed. Work not submitted will first receive a red box (counted as a missing assignment in in Aeries), then a zero if the assignment is not turned in by the day of the unit exam. I'm sorry, no extra credit will be offered.

## **ABSENCE POLICY**

1. Check the class schedule for missed work; download any missed work from the class website.
2. Work due on the day you were absent is due the day you return.
3. If you were absent the day it was assigned, you have the number of days you were absent to complete it.

## **GRADING**

All unit exams stay in the classroom, but are available to students and parents to review by appointment. Please check Aeries regularly for current grades. Grades are determined by a point system based on your performance on tests/quizzes (40%), essays/projects (30%), and homework/classwork (30%). Letter grades are distributed as follows:

A+ = 98-100%	B+ = 88-89.9%	C+ = 78-79.9%	D+ = 68-69.9%
A = 93-97.9%	B = 83-87.9%	C = 73-77.9%	D = 63-67.9%
A- = 90-92.9%	B- = 80-82.9%	C- = 70-72.9%	D- = 59.9-62.9%

## **ACADEMIC HONESTY**

Students and parents are expected to read the [SDUHSD Academic Honesty Policy](#). Cheating, plagiarism, or academic dishonesty, in any form, is not tolerated. Students who engage in academic dishonesty will lose credit for the assignment and/or referred to an administrator.

**FILMS**

This year we may view the following films in class. Please add a note on the signature page if you do not wish your child to view any particular film(s). *The Crossing* (NR), *42* (PG-13), and *Lincoln* (PG-13) or *Glory* (PG-13).

**THE LAST WORD**

I want you to succeed! I will approach you as much as possible about any apparent concerns, but please contact me if you have any questions or concerns about an assignment, a peer, a seating arrangement, or anything else. After school hours, email is the best way to get in touch with me—I will respond to you within a 24-hour period. Always remember that I'm here to help, so please do not hesitate to contact me.

**Thank you for your support and participation. I am looking forward to an excellent school year!**

**—Mr. Hunt**

**Sign and Return to Mr. Hunt**

*August, 2017*

Dear Student and Parents/Guardians:

I am looking forward to an enjoyable and successful year of learning in U.S. History 8. Please sign below that you have read the syllabus. The syllabus can be found on our class website: <http://mrhunthistory.weebly.com>. In addition, we may view the films, which require your consent, below. Please contact me with any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

Mr. Gregg Hunt  
PTMS U.S. History 8  
Phone: 858-509-1000 x4623  
Email: [gregg.hunt@sduhsd.net](mailto:gregg.hunt@sduhsd.net)

Student Name (print & signature): \_\_\_\_\_

Parent Name (print & signature): \_\_\_\_\_

**Yes**\_\_\_ **No**\_\_\_ I give my child permission to view *The Crossing* (NR), *42* (PG-13), *Lincoln* (PG-13), and *Glory* (PG-13).

Comments: \_\_\_\_\_