

## 8<sup>th</sup> Grade U.S History

Welcome to 8<sup>th</sup> grade US History!!! History is what defines us, tries to explain us, and hopefully teaches us what we do not want to repeat. History is the story of mankind, the people who were successful, and some who were not. This year we will be studying the “ideas, issues, and events from the framing of the Constitution up through Reconstruction after the Civil War”. We will trace the “development of American politics, society, culture, and economy”. Also, we will learn about the challenges facing America as a new nation leading up to the causes and consequences of the Civil War.

Using this curriculum we will create a non-fiction literacy class that integrates 8<sup>th</sup> grade Language Arts Common Core State Standards and 8<sup>th</sup> grade California Social Studies Standards. In addition to focusing on literacy, there will also be a focus on project-based learning that will require critical analysis of the events through U.S History and their impact socially, politically and economically. Geography and current events will also be integrated throughout the year’s study when pertinent.

**This class will incorporate a great deal of discussion, projects, and personal viewpoints. Absolute respect of everyone’s opinion is essential and disrespect in any form is something that will not be tolerated.**

### Materials needed for this class on a daily basis:

- A blue or black pen
- Pencils
- Colored pencils (encouraged, but optional)
- A colored pen for corrections: Red, green or purple
- Highlighter pack: Must include a pink, green, blue, purple and yellow highlighter
- Pencil Pouch (one that can be placed inside binders)
- College Ruled Paper
- Poster boards (for project based assessments)
- A section in your binder or a folder for History
- Planner or Homework Agenda

**Organization is the key to success. We will review these procedures in class in order to use our instruction time wisely and efficiently.**

**Entering the Classroom:** Students will line up quietly outside and wait to be greeted by their teacher. Upon entering the classroom you will go directly to your assigned seat, write down the daily agenda as well as your homework in your daily planner. This is posted daily on the white board and should be the first thing you do every day. There will be notebook checks to confirm it is being done correctly. Students should come to class prepared to work and learn.

**Binders:** You will have one large binder for all of your classes. You need a section for History that is marked off in some fashion. ***PLEASE DO NOT STUFF OR CRAM YOUR PAPERS INSIDE YOUR BINDER.*** Every paper has its proper place; take time to put your papers away correctly to ensure finding it in the future. Assessments will not be returned to students after they are graded, but will be kept in student’s portfolio in the classroom for running records, conferences, and report card. Copies of assessments can be sent home and then returned, upon request.

**Assessments:** Students will be assessed based on the Common Core Standards. Scores are reflected on Infinite Campus weekly and report cards quarterly. There will be two to three summative assessments per unit; these may include written essays, projects presentations, short responses and unit assessments. Formative assessments may appear on Infinite Campus based on work completed in the class and in preparation for the summative.

**Grading:** NP3 uses a standards based report card. Each standard will be graded on a 1-4 scale (Below Basic, Basic, Proficient, and Advanced). You will be able to see your student's progress on Infinite Campus and you may contact me at any time for more specific information regarding proficiency in specific standards. Students will have numerous opportunities to prove proficiency in each content standard.

**Teacher website:** I will be updating my website weekly with information regarding the weekly lesson plans, notes and power points, project/assignment/essay prompts and rubrics, study guides and school events. So please be sure to check that regularly. Advisors will be sending weekly emails with information regarding the weekly schedule, assignments, and assessments in our class → **if you are not receiving this email please, PLEASE contact me so I can be sure I have the appropriate email address for you.**

**Contact information:** Ms. Silas and Mr. Kons teach all of the same content and the best form of contact may be through email or phone:

Ashley Silas

Nicolas Kons

Email: [asilas@natomas.k12.ca.us](mailto:asilas@natomas.k12.ca.us)

Email: [nkons@natomas.k12.ca.us](mailto:nkons@natomas.k12.ca.us)

Websites:

NP3middle.com → Teacher Sites → Ashley Silas or Nicolas Kons

Phone Number: 916-567-5740

Phone Number: 916-567-5740

Room: O-2

Room O-1

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#### US HISTORY WISH LIST! ☺

The following is a list of supplies that we are going to need over the course of the year. You can bring in any of the listed items as a contribution for classroom use! Donations are greatly appreciated!!!

- \*Box of highlighters- - green, pink, yellow, blue, and purple
- \*Box of crayons, markers, or colored pencils
- \*Student scissors

- \*Construction Paper
- \*Ream of white or colored printer paper
- \*Butcher Paper
- \*Clear tape
- \*College ruled notebook paper

- \*Glue or glue stick
- \*Box of tissues
- \*Hand Sanitizer
- \*Magazines for cutting up-- please keep age appropriate
- \*Paper towels

\*\*\* Any age appropriate novels that you have read and no longer want would be greatly appreciated as a donation to our classroom library! Supplemental items would also be greatly appreciated! (e.g. picture books, posters, biographies, magazine subscriptions.

### Academic Dishonesty Policy

Academic Dishonesty falls into two main categories: Cheating and Plagiarism

**Cheating:** the unauthorized use of assistance or information in any academic task. It includes, but is not limited to:

- Copying someone else's work;
- Allowing someone else to copy your work;
- Submitting someone else's work as your own;
- Sharing questions and answers to formative and/or summative assessments between classes;
- Acquiring, or attempting to acquire assessment/quiz/assignment information in advance for the purposes of dishonestly improving your score;
- Altering assessment/quiz/assignment answers after grading, and attempting to return the work for a higher grade.

**Plagiarism:** attempting to receive credit for the unauthorized use of another person's intellectual property- words, sentences, or paragraphs- without appropriate acknowledgement or credit. It includes, but is not limited to:

- Copying a source directly, word for word, without proper citation;
- Copying a source directly, and then changing a few words to "make it your own," without proper citation;
- Paraphrasing or summarizing another person's work, without proper citation.

***In short plagiarism is presenting someone else's work, as your own—whether you do it on purpose or not.*** If you "forget" to cite your source, you are still guilty of plagiarism—as unsympathetic as that may sound. In this class, you will have instruction on how to both write information in your own words and how to cite your sources (and opportunities to "remember" to do so), so there is no excuse for not doing it. If you wait until the last minute to do your work, you are more likely to "forget", so consider this another good reason not to procrastinate! 😊

**Academic Dishonesty is Dishonorable and will be penalized: DON'T RISK IT!!**

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Please Read, Sign, and Return bottom portion of this page only. Thank you!

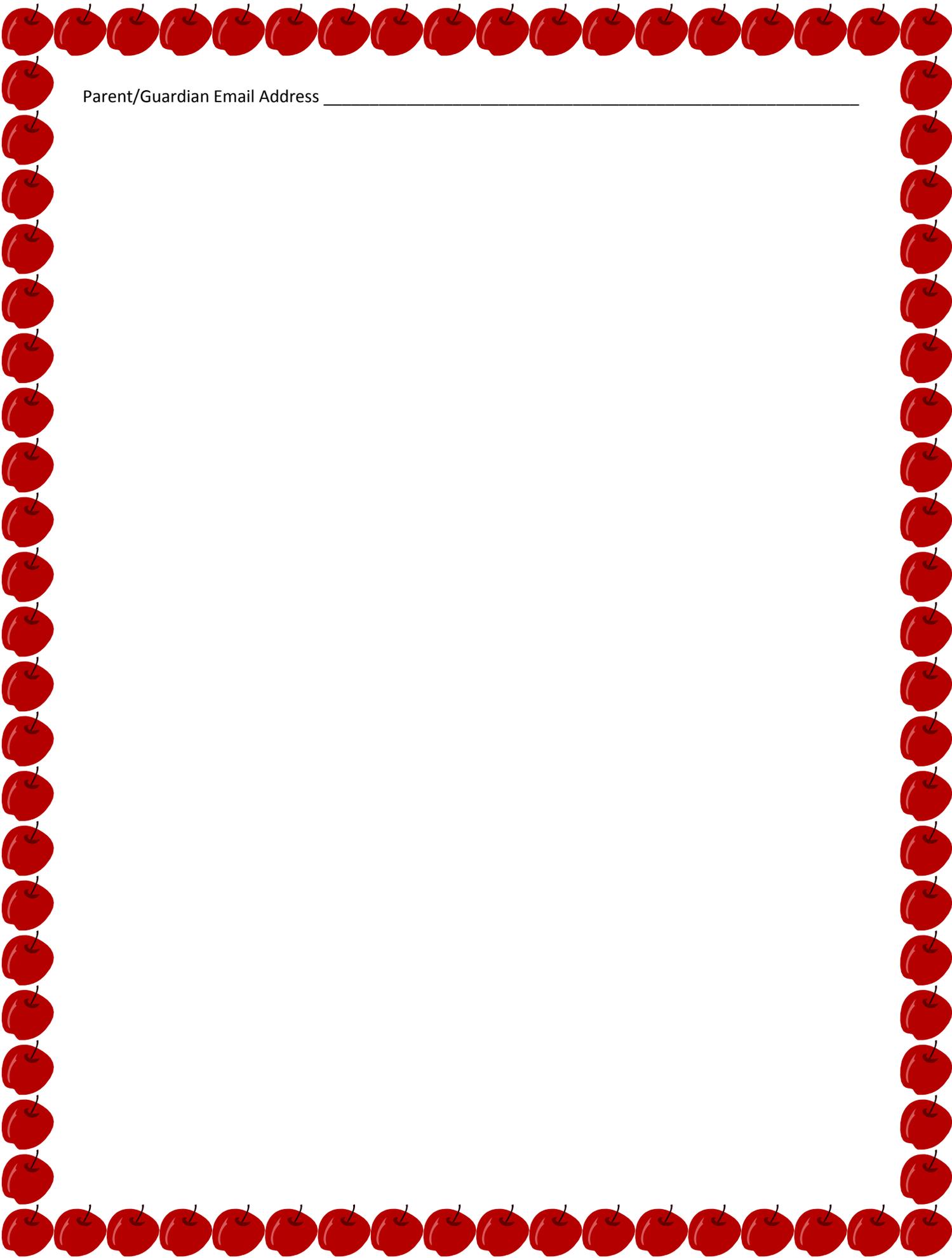
I \_\_\_\_\_ (print student name) and \_\_\_\_\_ (print parent name) have read the course description and classroom rules. We understand them as written and will contact my child's teacher if any questions or concerns should arise throughout the year.

Student Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Period \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_

Secondary number \_\_\_\_\_



Parent/Guardian Email Address \_\_\_\_\_