

“History never looks like history when you are living through it.”

James A. Gardner

Dear Parents and Students:

August 16, 2016

My name is Jason Kyle and I am your child's 8th grade history teacher. This is my twenty-second year at Pau-Wa-Lu and I feel fortunate to teach a subject I love every day I come to “work”. My goal is to make history relevant and thought provoking. The United States History class concentrates primarily on events from the European colonization of America to the Reconstruction period following the Civil War. The various units studied in class will explore the major events, groups and decisions that shaped the United States during these formative centuries. Reading, thinking and writing will be done daily. Students in my class will NOT learn history out of the textbook, but rather will utilize primary sources, images, music, art, class discussions, simulations and inquiry to gain deeper knowledge into selected topics. They will also be expected to write thoughtful and reflective answers and summaries on a regular basis and occasionally present information to their classmates.

PLEASE BOOKMARK THIS PAGE ON YOUR COMPUTER

mrkylesclass.weebly.com

The most useful tool that you as a parent can utilize to keep informed of your child's daily and weekly U.S. History class activities, assignments and upcoming due dates is my class website. I update this website a few times each week. I also include downloadable PDF files of all class handouts just in case items happen to be lost or misplaced! This is also a great resource for keeping your child up to date if they happen to be absent. You can also access my website by following the links to staff websites from the Pau-Wa-Lu homepage (schools.dscd.k12.nv.us/pwl). I'm confident that you find my site to be very informative and useful for knowing exactly what your child is doing or should be doing, each and every day in my class!

“The real secret to success is enthusiasm.”

Walter Chrysler

Students should have a binder or folder dedicated to history class. Every class will begin with students answering both their **History warm up question** and writing the definition to the **daily vocabulary term** in their history folder. This daily routine contains essential information and vocabulary for each unit. Students should be writing in their folder every day and as a result will constantly be reviewing important topics and learning the language associated with their study of history. By the end of the year students will have compiled their own history dictionary and have a handy resource for reviewing and studying for all assessments.

Want REMINDER\$ of upcoming DUE DATES\$

Text the message @d27f28 to the number 81010 to get reminders prior to the due date for upcoming assignments in Mr. Kyle's History class throughout the school year!

If you're having trouble with 81010, try texting @d27f28 to (631) 676-1707



"Success doesn't come to you. YOU go to it."

Marva Collins

An active learner is never bored! Students will get out of my class what they put into it in terms of energy, enthusiasm and engagement. **Class work** is a crucial part of the class. Class assignments are a useful way for students to practice skills and more thoroughly engage the curriculum in a meaningful manner. On occasion, class work will be due at the end of class. Sometimes students will need more time to finish their work. Although students will not be given homework on a nightly basis, there will be times when they will need to finish their class work at home and will therefore have "homework".

Throughout each semester, students will complete various **projects**, either individually or as a group, to creatively explore a particular topic and demonstrate their knowledge and understanding of the subject. Students will always have time in class to organize tasks and work on their projects prior to the due date, but these assignments will require some additional time outside of class.

Participation grade is given based on the results of an academic game called TRAP (Test, Review and Practice). TRAP is a competitive in-class game that is played to check the students' attentiveness, knowledge and understanding of topics and vocabulary covered in class. At the end of the quarter the student's final TRAP score is converted to a grade for class participation.

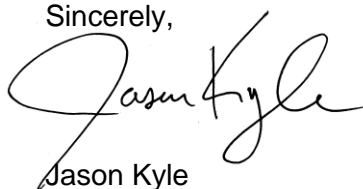
Lastly, **quizzes** are given approximately every two to three weeks. Quizzes are given during the unit and **tests** are given at the end of the unit. ***The daily vocabulary words and warm up questions from the start of each class form the core questions on all assessments and should be studied and reviewed prior to all quizzes and tests. Success favors the prepared mind!***

Final Semester grades are weighted. Each category makes up a different percentage, or "weight", of the overall grade and are calculated as follows: Tests 35%, Quizzes 25%, Class work 20%, Projects 15%, Participation/TRAP 5%.

Both parents and teachers want their students to succeed. You can help your child be successful by being involved in their education. Please utilize my webpage and monitor your child's grades, attendance and progress on a regular basis. Class grades will be updated regularly on Infinite Campus. Don't hesitate to email me at jkyle@dcsd.k12.nv.us if you have any concerns.

In conclusion, I look forward to a very rewarding, productive and FUN year working with you and your student.

Sincerely,



Jason Kyle

****Sign, cut off and return this portion to Mr. Kyle ASAP (Due: Tuesday 8/26/16)****

I have read and understand the letter explaining Mr. Kyle's expectations for History class.

STUDENT NAME (Please print) _____

Parent/Guardian Signature

Student Signature

Parent Email

Phone / cell number