

# 8<sup>th</sup> Grade

## United States History

### Mr. Christman

#### Welcome to Mr. Christman's 8<sup>th</sup> Grade History of the Americas!



This is going to be a great year! As we get started with the year let me remind you of the importance of this year in regards to the high school admission process. I am looking forward to helping you develop as students so that you can put your best foot

forward on the high school applications. Not only are we going to prepare as students, learn about history, develop as people, and have a lot of fun doing it! We have two major goals for this class. First, to improve in the behaviors and skills that are important to being a successful student both in this class and beyond. Secondly, we want to develop the skills that will assist us in being successful adults.

Topics/skills we will be learning this year:

- Map skills
- Critical Thinking Skills
- Identifying bias
- Similarities and differences among people
- The roll of geography and environment on development
- Foundational ideas of the U.S.
- Revolutionary War
- Founding Fathers
- Industrial Age
- Civil War
- Reconstruction
- Industrial Revolution
- The World Wars
- Civil Rights and the quest for equality

## Essential Procedures:

### Entry:

- Greet Mr. Christman at the door.
- Walk to your assigned seat at a LEVEL 0, have a seat, take out your notebook/article and silently begin your "Do Now."
- Scholars should not get out of their seats unless otherwise directed by Mr. Christman

### Exit Procedure

- Wait for "the Countdown" before you prepare to leave for your next class. The countdown will be done in all of your classes and includes the following steps:



4. Pack up your things
3. Pick up trash around you
2. Stand silently behind chair
1. Line up inside the classroom (2 lines)

- Classroom exit procedure is a silent process and should be done at a level zero.

### Computers:

- We will be using computers frequently during the class period. Students will be given a log in and MUST log out

before shutting down their computer.

- Everyone will have a number and you will only use the computer with your number on it. This is the same in every class.
- It is imperative that if you notice that something out of the ordinary has happened to their computer that you report it to Mr. Christman immediately.
- If a student damages a computer he or she is responsible for replacing it.
- If a student is caught on a website that he or she is not supposed to be on the student will lose their computer privileges for the remainder of the class period. If a student is caught for a second time doing something they should not be doing on the computer they will lose their privileges for the week. On the third offense he or she will lose privileges for the remainder of the school year.

- Students will NOT be allowed to listen to music while they are on the computers. If they are caught listening to music the same consequences will apply.

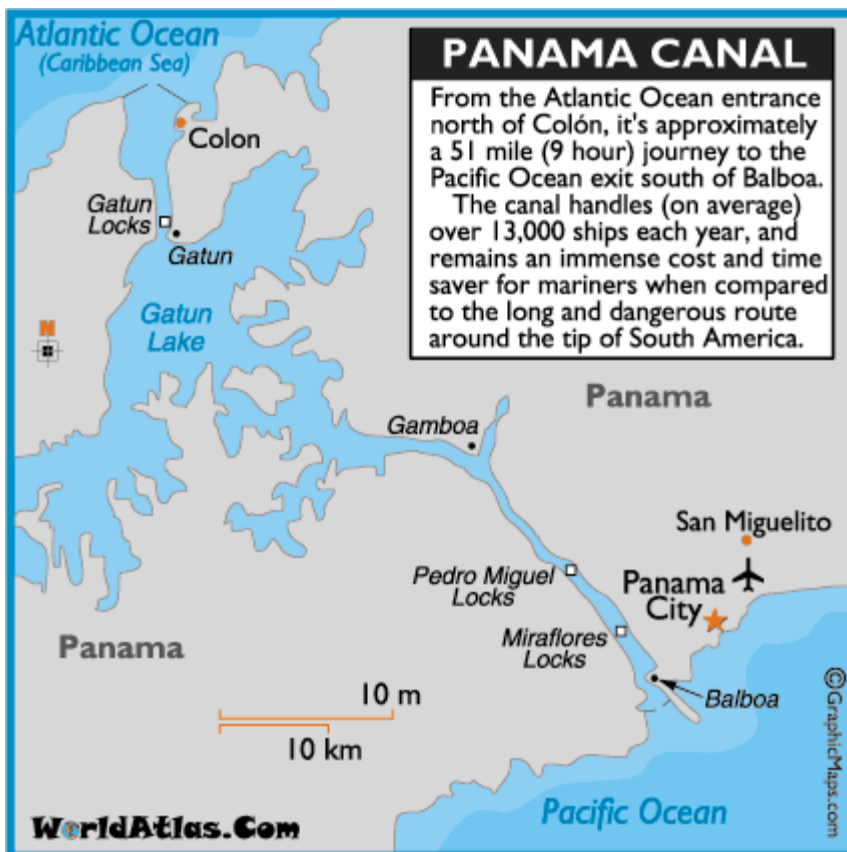
### **Binders:**

- All students are required to bring their binders to class everyday!
- Students are required to keep their binders neat and organized.

### **Homework:**

- Homework will be given regularly and is due the next day at the beginning of each class period.

### **Participation**



- All scholars must participate. The single best thing you can do to become a better student is to ask better questions. This same principle is true for adults! Great questions lead to great discussions and great learning. Participation goes towards your grade and it's important to always try, even if you're not sure you're right! We will talk about some famous "failures" and hopefully we will change your perception of failure

### **Absent Work:**

- If absent, you will have one additional day to make up the work.
- It is your responsibility to get all missing work at the appropriate time. It is also your responsibility to find someone with good notes to copy from the days

that were missed.

- Classroom resources will be available on the class website <http://www.quia.com/pages/jchristman38/page28> this website will be used frequently in class and as a way to stay on top of things if you are forced to miss class
- Part of the process of growing up is learning to self advocate. This is the process of making sure that you are asking for help when it is needed. Those who ask the best questions get the best results!

### **Grading Policy:**

Major assignments will be 60% of the overall grade, this includes but is not limited to; presentations, tests, exams, projects, and presentations. Minor assignments will be 40% of the overall grade, this includes but is not limited to; homework, classwork, participation, group work etc. One of the things that we are attempting to build in class is a self-motivated student. Mr. Christman encourages students to ask questions about their grade at appropriate times. Students are also encouraged to use the time when we are going over assignments to ensure that they understand the correct answer. The point of the class is not to “get the answer correct” but instead to build our understanding. Please keep this in mind as we review our work.

### **Required Materials:**

- Binder
- Pens
- 2 sharpened pencils
- Colored pencils
- silent reading book
- Planner

### **Quality Work**

- All final copies of assignments are expected to meet quality work standards. The quality work standards are as follows. Quality work is:
  - Not crumpled, ripped or stained
  - Legible
  - Written in formal English
  - Headed with your name, date, and class period in the upper left-hand corner of your paper
  - Completed at your PERSONAL BEST
  - All problems are worked out with all work showing



### **Quiet Signal**

- When I need the attention of the class, I will do one of the following things:
  - Count down from 5. Silence and your attention are expected when I reach 0.
  - Clap the pattern. When I clap the pattern you will clap the pattern in response and get silent immediately after.

### **Classroom Rules and Expectations:**

Rules and expectations for class will be discussed in class. Students are expected to conduct themselves as scholars at all times. Students are expected to produce their best effort on a daily basis and approach their education as a continually evolving and improving endeavor.

### **TAB (Take a Break)**

Take a Break (TAB)- System to help YOU get back on track.

1. Center yourself
  - Take 5 deep breaths (4 count breathing as used by the Navy SEALs)
2. Identify the mistake (why you were asked to TAB)
3. Think about, create a plan to get back on track
4. Stick to your plan and make a commitment
5. Return to your seat when your teacher signals you. Be ready to be a productive member of class.