

September, 2008

World History

Dear Parents & Student:

World History is a required class for all 9th graders in the Spokane School District. The class is a year-long endeavor covering the years 1450 to present. We will be covering specific topics in a semi-thematic system. The following topics will be covered during the year.

1st Semester: Global Expansion & Encounter (1450-1770), and Age of Revolution (1750-1920)

2nd Semester: Causes & Consequences of International Conflict & Challenges (1870-1950) and Emergence & Development of New Nations (1950-Present)

The text for this class is World History: The Human Journey by Holt Publishing (2004). This is an in-class text and will not be checked out for student use.

One of the goals of the World History program at Shadle is to help students understand the connections and consequences of past events on today's world. To this end, I will be using varied forms of evaluation so that students can demonstrate their understanding of the material covered. In some instances, students will be given a choice of assignments or ways of completing an assignment. Examples of assignments include drawings, essays, worksheets, tests & quizzes, maps, group presentations, etc.

Most of the work we do in this class is done "in-class", not as homework. When your child misses class, it **does** affect their ability to achieve. Please encourage your son/daughter to attend class as much as possible. *Chronic attendance issues are the main reason students fail at the 9th grade level.* If your son/daughter will be absent for more than 2 days of class in a row, please **email me for assignments and/or materials** prior to or during the absence. This coming year is an incredible transition for 9th graders. The best way to succeed is to DO! Encourage your student to attend class, **do** the required work, **do** get involved in school activities, and **do** make the most of these next four years.

Required Materials (in class, daily)

- ◆ 3-hole, ruled paper for assignments (not spiral notepaper!)
- ◆ 3-ring notebook
- ◆ Colored pencils
- ◆ Black or Blue pen
- ◆ Pencil & Eraser
- ◆ Highlighters – 2 different colors

Recommended, but not required

- Whiteout tape
- Colored Markers (not permanent)
- Ruler
- Student Atlas

Behavioral Expectations

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| <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. You are responsible for every behavior you do.
<i>There are no excuses!</i>2. Be on time and ready to go when the bell rings!!!!3. Respect your classmates and teacher - their ideas, comments, mannerisms, etc.4. Do not leave your seat before the bell rings!5. Participation!!! -- Whether that participation is <i>active or passive</i> - just participate!!!! | <ol style="list-style-type: none">6. Be prepared – bring materials to class, make up work/notes missed...your in HIGH SCHOOL now.7. Assignments are done on time and with quality8. No Food, candy or drinks – However, you may have a "closed top" water bottle at your desk. |
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Grading and Assignments

Because of the block scheduling used at Shadle, this class does not meet every day. When assignments are given, it is essential for students to write down the due dates and manage their workload in a responsible manner. **Assignments are due on the date specified unless an excused absence is registered in the office, or the student discusses their situation with me prior to the date due. LATE WORK IS NOT ACCEPTED UNLESS ARRANGED IN ADVANCE OF DUE DATE.**

Grading is a semester-long grade, not quarter grades averaged together.

Grading will be **weighted** with the following scale:

• Classroom assignments & participation	45%	A = 90%-100%
• Work Ethic in class (work maturity)	10%	B = 80%-89%
• Homework Assignments	15%	C = 70%-79%
• Tests & Quizzes	10%	D = 60%-69%
• Projects	20%	F = <60%

When class is missed, it is the responsibility of the student to schedule any make-up work immediately upon returning to school, during access time or after school.

Cell Phone/Multimedia Policy

When in the classroom, all cell phones and multimedia devices are to be “invisible”. Turn off phones, and put away all devices. If I see a phone, Ipad, ear buds, etc., **I will confiscate it until the end of my teaching day (2:30)** when you can pick it up. **PARENTS:** Please do not attempt to contact your student during the school day through cell phone messages! If it is an emergency, please contact them through the office.

Tardy/Attendance Policy

Please examine the school-wide policies given to you at the beginning of the year. I will adhere to those policies as closely as possible. **If absences are still unexcused 24 hours after returning to school, no makeup work will be given.**

Access Time Usage

Notice to parents – access time is a “class period”, during the school day, on Monday, Tuesdays and Fridays from 7:45-8:30. Although your student is not required to attend access time (unless req’d by a teacher for disciplinary or makeup work), we highly recommend that your child use this time to get additional help and/or do homework. If they are having difficulties with assignments or need to work on assignments, this is the time for doing so. *If I feel, as their teacher, that your child needs to utilize this time. I may contact you (parent/guardian) to request mandatory access time attendance until I feel that your child is understanding the material and their grades are improved.*

Contacting Me

For parents and students, the best way to contact me is through email at janiev@spokaneschools.org. Questions regarding grades, access time, behavior, etc. can be dealt with in this manner. You may also reach me by phone, but will need to leave a message and I’ll get back to you as soon as possible. (Because of construction, I do not know my room phone number at this time, please contact the front office and they will transfer you. 354-6700). Please remember to email me if your child will be absent for more than 2 class periods in a row so that I can send makeup work. This can also be done through the front office attendance desk.

I hope you enjoy this class. I do everything possible to make it a fun, pleasant and enjoyable environment for you to learn in. In return, all I ask is that you try to the best of your personal abilities to perform at the highest quality you can, to learn about World history and to respect the freedoms and choices given to you without taking advantage of a good thing!!!!

Let’s have a great year!!!!

Janie VandeBerg
Shadle Park High School janiev@spokaneschools.org

Parents*IMPORTANT****Guardians***

Dear Parents/Guardians:

Please read and discuss the World History Expectations with your son or daughter so that you are both aware of what this course involves. Then fill out the information below to help ensure your child has a successful year in World History. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me via e-mail janiev@spokaneschools.org Thank you, Ms. VandeBerg

I, _____ have read and discussed the World History Expectations
(Print parent/guardian name)

with my son / daughter _____, and I accept and support your policies.
(Print student name)

Parent/guardian signature _____ Date _____

Student signature _____ Date _____

Parent Contact Information

Mailing Address: _____

Phone numbers where you can be reached during the day:

E-mail address : _____

Is there anything else I should know about your son/daughter, or do you have other comments?

