Mr. Severance
Room 207
Conference Period: 6th Period 1:10-1:55
Email: sseverance@burnetcisd.net

Course Description
Students build their knowledge of U.S. History through reading, writing, researching and collaborative strategies. Students will learn how to think critically on the subject of history and how it can determine their future.

Course Outline
This is a full-year course in which we explore the following eras of American History leading up to the Reconstruction Era in the late 19th Century:

- Exploration and Colonization
- The Culture, Economy and Government of the American Colonies
- The American Revolution
- The Constitution
- The Early Republic
- The Age of Jackson
- Manifest Destiny
- Industrialization
- Civil War
- Reconstruction

I hope to help students critically read, discuss and write about historical issues. These skills will be developed through:

- High-level questioning techniques
- Written/oral communication practice
- Academic language development
- AVID and English language acquisition strategies
- Facilitation of 21st century skills

Rules:

1. Pay Attention.
2. Be Respectful.
3. Act Responsible.
4. Have Integrity.

**Using the restroom in class is a privilege, not a RIGHT! Students are expected to use the restroom on their breaks and come to class prepared. Restroom use will be given to students at the teacher’s discretion or in case of emergencies.**
Consequences:

1. First offense: Verbal/nonverbal warning.
2. Second offense: Fill out Think Sheet and meet with the Teacher.
3. Third offense: Lunch detention and parent phone call.
4. Fourth offense: Referral to administrator.

*Severe Clause–Major violations will automatically be referred to an administrator. Major Violations include but are not limited to: Fighting, violent threats or actions, obscene language or gesture towards a student or teacher, leaving class without permission, possession of weapons, and blatant disrespect towards a teacher or administrator.

Rewards:
All students who exhibit good behavior while in class have the possibility of being recognized at the individual level. This includes but is not limited to going outside, candy, and other privileges.

Grade Determination
Daily Grades – 50%
- class assignments
- notebook assignments
- quizzes
- homework
Test Grades – 50%
- unit tests
- projects

Curriculum
A. Primary textbook: McGraw Hill – “United States History to 1877”
B. Supplemental textbook: History Alive – “The United States”
D. Other publications include: educational videos, periodicals, Internet publications
E. Student work will be organized in an interactive journal format

Assignments and Absences
Homework will be assigned as needed. Most work can and should be completed during class. We will test at the end of each Unit. In the event of an excused absence for homework or tests, the student will have as many days to turn-in make-up work as days they were absent with no penalty. Students are responsible for asking about missed assignments and make-up work.

Late Work and Zero Policy
Work must be done and ready to turn-in when specified according to the teacher’s instructions. Any work not ready at that time will be considered late. There will be a penalty of 10% per day for late assignments with a grade no lower than a 50% by the end of five days. If the student does not complete the assignment then a zero will be given, parent contact will be made, and the student will sign a Mandatory Zero Form.

No Names on Assignments
Assignments without names will be put into the, “No Name Bin,” for students to identify on their own time. Students will be given 5 days to identify their assignment. If it is not turned in by the end of 5 days the zero policy will take effect.
Class Supply List
1x Pen/Pencil
1x Composition Notebook
1x Subject Notebook
1x Avid Binder (if Applicable)
1x Pack of Colored Pencils

I look forward to a great year and working with each student at Burnet Middle School!

-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------
Sign and return this portion to Mr. Severance by Friday, August 25, 2017

Student Name (Print)__________________________________________________

Signature:      __________________________________________________________

Parent/Guardian Name (Print)__________________________________________

Parent/Guardian Email________________________________________________

Signature:___________________________________________________________

Mr. Severance American History
Dear Parents,

Thank you for allowing me to have the privilege of being your student’s U.S. History Teacher for this year. I am very excited! We will learn a great deal. I wanted to give you all a brief description of me, and provide this letter as a point of contact should you have any questions or concerns along the way. My contact information is also in the class syllabus. I was born in Tucson, Arizona, and spent my middle school and high school years in Hanford, CA. I went to college at the University of Arizona (Bear Down!), and graduated with a BA in history. I joined the United States Army through ROTC, and spent four years as an Infantry Officer. After my time in the army, I wanted to focus on becoming a History Teacher and moved to Burnet, Texas with my wife to start a family.

I am a big fan of parent involvement, and would love to have you come visit your child’s classroom at any time if you are available. I understand that people are busy, myself included, however if you want to schedule a parent/teacher conference feel free to get in touch with me. My most available time will be: M-F 8:00-8:45.

Respectfully,

Scott Severance

Contact Information

Scott Severance
Burnet Middle School Room#: 207
Email: sseverance@burnetcisd.net