

# 8<sup>th</sup> Grade World Cultures

Dear Parents/Guardians:

Below you will find key information for your child's History/World Cultures Class. I am asking that you please read over the following information and discuss it with your child. If you have any questions regarding this information, please feel free to contact me at 793-2232 or [marcus.johnson@sumter.k12.fl.us](mailto:marcus.johnson@sumter.k12.fl.us).

Sincerely,

Marcus Johnson

## **Key Information for US History and Career Planning:**

**Course Description: 2105020--M/J World Cultures** - The social studies curriculum for this course consists of the following content area strands: World History, Geography, and Economics. The primary content for this course pertains to the study of the significant contributions of world cultural groups. Students will use social studies concepts, tools, and skills to draw conclusions regarding the varied characteristics of cultural groups. Content should include, but is not limited to the characteristics of a cultural group, the development of cultural societies, and the complexity of global issues. Students will study methods of historical inquiry and primary and secondary historical documents. Please review the course timeline below. Note that it is subject to change.

- First nine weeks:
  - The Stone Age and Early Cultures
  - Early River Civilizations
- Second nine weeks
  - Asia
  - Foundations of Western Ideas
- Third nine weeks
  - Ancient Rome and Christianity
  - African Cultures
- Fourth nine weeks
  - Mesoamerica
- **Materials (Required):**
  - 1 Spiral Notebook
  - Pencils and/or Black Pens
  - Colored pencils/markers/ (student preference)
  - Laptop and Stylus
- **Grading Policy**
  - 60% Assessments
  - 40% Assignments
- **Discipline Consequences**
  - First Offense: Verbal Warning
  - Second Offense: Teacher-assigned consequence (lunch detention, seat change, writing assignment, etc.)
- **Absences/Make-up work**

It is the student's responsibility to find out what they missed. All unexcused absences will result in a failing grade (up to a 59) if made up. **All absences will be given only the number of days missed to make-up work.** A zero will be given in gradebook for any assignment not turned in on the due date, but will be updated as assignments are turned in based on the lateness of the assignment. Therefore, it is extremely important for students to turn in assignments on time, or as soon as they return to school, in order to get full credit. It is also the student's responsibility to ask to make-up any tests/quizzes they may have missed. Students will have time during 6<sup>th</sup> period or during P.E. on Wednesdays to make-up work.
- **Projects**

Students will also be required to complete a project for the Social Studies Fair. This will take place during the 4<sup>th</sup> nine weeks, but students should start thinking about possible topics as early as possible. Projects can be based on anything related to World History, so choose wisely and try to find something that you will be interested in learning more about. The project will include a model or display board, and a short research paper. A list of possible topics will be provided later in the year, but the project is not limited to these. Be unique and have fun with it!!! I'll help in whatever way I can!
- **Signed Papers must be returned in a timely manner.**
  - Throughout the school year, students will be receiving papers to take home to be signed and returned by a given due date.
  - Failure to return a signed paper will result in disciplinary action.
- Third Offense: Parent Contact
- Fourth Offense: Long Form  
(Some violations of rules may result in a more severe consequence)
- **Laptop-Teams and One Note**-Students are expected to take all course notes on their laptop using One Note or adding a photo of their notes to One Note.
  - The One Note grade counts like a test grade.
  - ALL notes should be written in the Focused/Cornell Note format, and organized as instructed in class.

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Please read, sign, date, and return the bottom portion of this letter.

I have read, and discussed with my child, the **2019-2020** World Cultures Class information sheet.

Parent/Guardian's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Student's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_