



7th Grade Washington State History



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Dear Ike Parents/Guardians,

Welcome back to Eisenhower Middle School for the 2017-18 school year. I look forward to being your History teacher this year. Originally from Alberta, Canada, I grew up in Mount Vernon, Washington and love the Pacific Northwest. I earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in history from Washington State University (*Go Cougs!*), and a Master in Teaching degree from Western Washington University. This is my fourth year at Eisenhower Middle School, and sixth year teaching. Successful completion of this class is a state requirement for high school graduation. Failing this course will result in repeating it during 8th grade, or completing a more rigorous version in high school. There will be high expectations for all, and with those come high achievement and success! Please feel free to email me with any questions or concerns.

Students need to have the following items with them during class each day:

- Pencils/Sharpener and black pen
- IKE Pages (need daily)
- History Folder (I will provide this)
- Colored pencils (every student needs their own color pencils)

Work & Grading:

Student's assessments (tests, quizzes, and major projects) will make up 70% of the grade, with classwork and homework 30%. My expectations for students are they complete all class and/or homework (formative assessment) on time, and study for tests and quizzes (summative assessments). Students will be given time to complete most work during class. They may, however, have additional work to be completed at home if they don't use their class time productively. Unit test retakes will only be allowed for students who score a **BeS or NS**, and upon **completion of a new study guide**; may earn as high as an **AS** on retakes; only one retake attempt will be allowed (exceptions typically only for students with IEPs/504s). This will encourage students to study the material they are learning in class for their assessments.

I do not award extra credit.

Late Work:

If a student is absent, he or she has one week to make up their work, including assessments, to be eligible for full credit. Finding out what was missed is the sole responsibility of your student! Late work turned in after one week will be evaluated on an individual basis, and given appropriate credit *only* if it is fully completed by the unit's end. I will *not* accept missing assignments after the completion of the unit it was assigned from. For example, work from the Geography & Geology unit will not be accepted during the Government unit. This will encourage students to be responsible, and focus on learning the content at hand instead of playing catch up all year. Lastly, it is vital that your child is at school every day because many of the learning experiences that occur in the classroom simply cannot be made up at home.

Grading/Scale:

Online grades will be updated as new summative/formative assessments are scored approximately every two weeks. The grading scale will be as per Eisenhower Middle School policy:

A	=	93-100%	C+	=	77-79
A-	=	90-92	C	=	73-76
B+	=	87-89	C-	=	70-72
B	=	83-86	D+	=	67-69
B-	=	80-82	D	=	60-66
			F	=	0-59

Communicating with Student/Parent(s)/Guardian(s):

Students are required to record assignments and due dates in **their Ike Pages daily**. This is a great place for parents to check and see if their child has any work to complete. This is also a good way for you to find out what happened in class and ask your student questions about what they've learned. Also, you have my teacher website at IKE. I have a calendar that I update regularly. Parent involvement in education is key to every student's success. I will do my best to return your phone calls or emails within a 24 hour time frame. Email is the preferred way to reach me, as it is a quick and very helpful way for me to communicate with you about your child.

Mr. James' Classroom Expectations:

1. "With Malice toward none and Charity toward all." - Abraham Lincoln
2. Be in your seat with all class materials at the ready before the bell rings
3. Everyone's opinion must be respected, especially when you disagree with it
4. Be engaged, ask questions, help others, and learn a lot

Enclosed in your student's Ike Pages is a copy of Eisenhower's behavioral expectations, known as the ***Patriot Code***. Please review the Patriot Code, particularly the classroom expectations section with your student. Maintaining a positive classroom environment is paramount for achieving student success. Your support helping maintain a healthy classroom environment will be greatly appreciated.

Lastly, please review the Ike Pages with your child and become familiar with Eisenhower's policies regarding tardies, absences, and disciplinary action.

Sincerely,

Richard James