

September 4, 2019



Gateway Middle School  
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GATEWAY MIDDLE SCHOOL

# Mr. Rentko's 6th Grade English & World History Class 2019-2020

## WELCOME TO GATEWAY!

The 2019-2020 school year is officially underway and it is my honor to welcome you and your student to a truly amazing middle school! My name is Paul Rentko and I teach English and World History. Four years ago, before I started teaching at Gateway, I had the opportunity to work as a substitute teacher in many of the public schools in Everett and Mukilteo. Working in a wide range of elementary, middle, and high schools allowed me to fully appreciate the qualities that make Gateway such an extraordinary school. Thanks to the commitment and strength of character displayed by our students and staff, I can proudly say that Gateway Middle School is the most positive, welcoming, and productive learning environment I have ever encountered.

I am incredibly excited to be part of the Gateway community and I expect that my students will quickly learn to share my enthusiasm. I am committed to providing your child with a supportive and encouraging introduction to the next three years of their education. A student's first experiences at a new school can be intimidating and stressful, and I would like to do all that I can to help make the transition to middle school as smooth as possible. Please let me know if you or your student have any questions or concerns. I am here to make every day of this school year a learning experience that your student enjoys.

As a sixth grade English and History teacher, I am able to provide many of my students with a homeroom environment and work with them for up to three class periods each day. I intend to make the most of this amount of instructional time by learning as much as I can about each student. I am dedicated to helping your child acquire knowledge and skills that will support their individual goals, in school and in life. I believe that frequent parent communication is crucial to success for every student. Maintaining open communication with you is one of my highest priorities. I will keep you updated on homework, projects, and other important information via email and on Google Classroom. Feel free to contact me anytime at [prentko@everettsd.org](mailto:prentko@everettsd.org).

### Classroom Materials

Each student should have the basic supplies for all classes: a 1.5-2" 3 ring binder with paper and dividers, highlighters, pens, pencils, a good eraser, glue sticks, scissors, and colored pencils. **In addition, they will need composition notebooks for English and History (one notebook for each class).** Students will also benefit from a reliable digital device that they can use to access their Google Drive at home, as we will be using computers frequently.

**Gateway planners** are recommended for every student. They include the school's rules and discipline policy, general school information, expectations, and a day-to-day calendar to help keep students organized. A planner can be a great communication tool for you and your child to go over each evening!

#### Suggestions for supply cabinet contributions:

- Last Name A-F: Two boxes of tissue/Kleenex
- Last Name G-L: Notecards
- Last Name M-R: One box of colored pencils
- Last Name S-Z: Extra-fine tip Black Sharpies



Curriculum Open House is Monday, Sept. 23rd ~ 6:30-8:15 pm Mark your calendars!

## English Language Arts Curriculum

The district middle school curriculum this year is a Pre-AP program from the College Board, called *SpringBoard*. SpringBoard is a student-centered, interactive, Common Core State Standards based curriculum with the goal of preparing all students for high school and college success. Reading and writing skills are integrated, and are designed to promote critical thinking while guiding students to become independent learners. The district will provide each student with a consumable workbook for practice activities. Along with SpringBoard, there will be novel studies, vocabulary lessons, and an independent reading program.



## World History Curriculum

Our world history curriculum is also aligned with WA State Standards, and uses essential questions to guide an exploration of ancient civilizations, including China, Egypt, Greece, and Rome. We will be using the Pearson *myWorld* textbook and online resources to provide an activity-based and multimedia rich curriculum that emphasizes critical inquiry. The textbook will be provided as a class set and will also be accessible online. If necessary, students will be able to check out a textbook from the library to use at home.



### GRADING POLICY:

- **80% Summative Assessments**  
Work that is meant to show mastery: tests, projects, etc.
- **20% Formative Assessment**  
Work that leads to understanding and mastery: daily work, homework, etc.

### Absence Policy:

- **Absent work must be made up within 2 days.**
- Use your planner to find the missing work for the day!
- Make sure to ask a classmate to find out any important information you might have missed as well.

### Late Work:

- Forgot your homework? Couldn't complete an assignment in class?
- **You have 2 days to turn it in late** for a maximum of 85% of the possible grade.
- **All assignments must be turned in before the test.** Any work that is not submitted before the corresponding unit test/assessment will not be accepted.

### Re-teaching/Test Make-Up Opportunities:

- Students **may** be allowed to do test corrections, re-take an assessment, or complete a related activity to earn back points on a summative grade **below 80%**.
- Any re-take, corrections, or make-up work must be done during lunch or at home and turned in no later than one week after the initial assessment.

## How can I help my student?

- Check their planner and online grades weekly.
- Talk to them about what they did in class.
- Weekly clean out of backpack and binder.
- Ensure they read 30 minutes each night.
- Expect their best every time!

### Other Important Information:

**Weekly Homework:** I assign a reading log and request that students actively read for 20-40 minutes every night.

**Discipline Policy/GUARD:** I follow the Gateway Honor Level System, which is outlined in the planner. We will also be creating classroom norms during the first week of school, based on our school-wide values: Grit, Universal respect, Acceptance, Responsibility, and Doing the right thing (GUARD). Students will be given opportunities to influence and revisit the classroom rules in order to develop a successful learning environment.

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### Stay Connected!

- **Use Google Classroom:** for checking Weekly Progress, assignments, and updates on what is going on in our classroom.
- **Online Grades:** are updated every other week.
- **Email:** reminders and updates about class assignments will also be sent via email to keep you informed!

