

SYLLABUS CONTRACT for 2022 - 2023
Mr. Dunn's U.S. History Class at Pinole Middle School

Dear parents or guardians,

This year will be an exciting one for the students in my classes. We will continue to use the new updated 2019 TCI's History Alive! Textbook. A program that truly engages students in learning. Your student will be an active participant instead of a passive observer, experiencing history through innovative teaching practices that include dramatic role-playing, creative simulations, dynamic group projects, and writing from a historical perspective.

Students learn about a number of sensitive and controversial topics, including the Civil War and Civil Rights of all American people. The History Alive! Materials were designed to deal with these topics objectively, respectfully, and in accordance with standards set throughout the country.

My classes will be using the Chromebook students used in their previous school in class.

Here are some tips on supporting your child's academic progress in this class.

- Discuss history and current events with your child and listen to what your child has to say.
- go to my e-Learning site and check the calendar on my website to see what assignments your student has.
- Make sure to physically check your student's Google Classroom account on a regular basis, so you can see for yourself what your child is learning. You will be provided with a summary of activity when you sign up for a [Guardian Email Summary](#).
- Provide a quiet study place, free from distractions that are helpful to study, and it should not be in the bedroom.
- Finally, now that we are back to school, extend learning beyond the walls of the classroom by taking your child to historical sites or museums. Point out that history is all around us, that it shapes the present and the future, and that every one of us can play an active and positive role in it.

I want to thank you in advance for your support. I am looking forward to an exciting, enjoyable, and enriching year working with you and your child. Please fill in the information and send the bottom portion of this paper with your student. ***Students who return this form by the first Friday of school will receive 10 extra credit points at the beginning of the year.***

If you have any questions, feel free to contact me at 510 231-1436, extension 26366 and leave a message, or send me an e-mail at edunn@wccusd.net or check my website at:

<http://www.wccusd.net//Domain/389>

Look on the school website under the teacher's websites. I look forward to having a great year with you and your family.

Mr. Dunn

Please fill out, cut, and have your student turn this bottom form in, and **you should keep the top portion**

*** Student:** I have reviewed the course syllabus with my parents/guardians, and we are aware and understand what is expected this year.

Printed Name of student: _____

Signature (student): _____ Date: _____

****Parents: my child and I have reviewed the course syllabus and we are aware and understand what is expected this year.***

Signature (Mother/guardian): _____

E-Mail: _____ Cell #: _____

Signature (Father/guardian): _____

E-Mail: _____ Cell #: _____

Websites and Apps that will be used in class for – 2019 – 2020

1. www.wccusd.net/Pinole = school and district website with many helpful pages
2. **Google Classroom** - <https://classroom.google.com/u/0/h> = the Google program created to send and receive documents and PDF presentations to students and parents. You will also be able to track your students' progress on each assignment.
3. **Google Chrome Account** - <https://www.google.com/chrome/> = tablets will be sent home (once digital citizenship lessons and the take home form is signed), but it is still advisable to make sure that your personal computer and your student's personal computer has the Google Chrome browser installed.
4. Google Apps for Education (GAPE) - <https://drive.google.com/drive/u/0/my-drive> = This is the Google suite of products that your student will be using in class and at home for homework and projects
5. **Student Gmail** – connected to GAPE within the G Drive (Gmail in upper right side of page) – only designed to send and receive messages within the district: student to teacher or student to student. Full functionality will be available when your student reaches High School.
6. **Nearpod** – A link thru Google Classroom will always be provided for the presentation. The best part of this program will be that your student will have a chance to make up any work by completing the self-paced assignment that will be provided at the end of the live session.
7. **Kami** - <https://web.kamihq.com> In order to save time and use the new TCI pdf pages I will be using
8. **Edpuzzle** - <https://edpuzzle.com/> students will also get a link through Google classroom
9. **FlipGrid** - a link will always be provided for the assignment to create video responses
10. **YouTube** – www.youtube.com – many videos and video clips are found here.

MR. DUNN 'S 8th Grade United States HISTORY CLASS
Course Description and Grading Criterion
Pinole Middle School 2022 - 2023

TEACHER AND CONTACT INFORMATION:

Teacher: **Mr. Ted Dunn**

E-mail: **edunn@wccusd.net** (Always put your name in the subject box so that I know your message is not spam.)

School Phone: **510-231-1436 ext.: 26366**

Teacher website: <http://www.wccusd.net/Domain/389>

Google Classroom: <https://classroom.google.com>

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

GRADE 8 – U.S. History

using the textbook: History Alive! The United States through Industrialism

This year we will be looking at the history of the United States. Starting during colonial times, to the signing of the Declaration of Independence, through our Civil war and ending with becoming an industrialized nation. We will look at how our country has changed over time towards becoming a major world power. We will focus on the inner turmoil of our politics, laws, slavery and wars. A major area of focus will be the constitution and what that means to every citizen. We will be discussing its meaning and interpreting it for better understanding. Throughout the class we will use homework, academic language, projects and assignments to help students learn the basic knowledge of the foundation of our country and its democratic practices.

Objectives

This class will help students focus on the following:

- School Skills – Students will build upon their school skills by learning study skills, navigation of textbooks, and how to become more independent learners. Rules in the classroom are created for order and clear expectations and each student will adhere to those rules. Students will learn to add to the class by participating and enriching the class atmosphere, by being cooperative and respectful.
- Organization – Students will learn to keep organized notes for history, Students are expected to use a planner and will be responsible for their classwork, homework, projects, thru the Google Classroom app..
- Viewing History Objectively – History is an interpretation of facts that have been compiled over the years. Students will learn to interpret these facts and form educated opinions and arguments. Students will be encouraged to share their ideas as a process of enriching the classroom.
- Increase Knowledge of History – The class will be looking at our first 100 years of history and will be responsible for learning the main ideas of each chapter. Throughout the class, projects and homework will increase the student's knowledge of their own history and the country's past.
- Responsibility – The theme of Middle School is responsibility. Getting older and preparing for high school means more of a work load for the students. Throughout the year we will be working together to help handle the work, independence, and self motivation.

Evaluation:

Grading: All assigned work will receive credit: tests, quizzes, Study Guides, in- class writing, oral presentations, projects, etc. in addition, class participation will be subjectively noted . Percentages point s for grades are listed below:

Percentage	Grade	Description	GRADING CATEGORIES	
90 - 100%	A	Outstanding performance	Participation	30%
80 - 89%	B	Good performance	Projects/Guides	20%
70 - 79%	C	Satisfactory performance	Classwork	30%
60 - 69%	D	Minimum effort	Test/Quizzes	20%
59% and below	F	Less than minimum effort		

An “A” student excels in class by consistently scoring well on all assignments and participates verbally often. Every student has the opportunity to get an “A.” Remember: NO participation, no “A”; All “B” and “C” students score well on most work turned in, are constantly working in class and participate verbally on a regular basis. Students with “D” and “F” grades may be given special consideration if they have given forth the effort by trying to turn in most of the work. Grades will be determined by the percentage of correct work for each assignment and then they will be weighted by the four categories found above.

Weekly Effort Points

You will receive **four (4)** points each day for actively participating in class. The following points constitute active participation: arriving on time with a current ID on a lanyard, having all your materials and your tablet on your desk, being always cooperative and respectful and for completing most work in class or turning in work in a timely manner. Any work assigned for class time can be completed for Homework if not finished and turned in the next day. Most importantly there must be effort in all work.

Attendance:

Regular attendance is necessary for success in school and in this class. Classroom discussions, instruction, and activities are critical aspects of learning and cannot be adequately made up or duplicated when a student is absent. If your student is going to be absent or going on a school-sponsored trip, please let me know in advance so that I can give them the assignment in advance, or you can go to my website or Google Classroom to get the information. (More information later)

Tardy Policy

If you are not in **your seat ready to start class** when the bell rings, you are **TARDY**. You are expected to be on time for school and classes. Habitual tardiness and absences may affect a student’s grade and will serve **10 min. detentions**, with calls home to parents and a parent meeting if necessary.

There are hall passes issued for bathroom breaks, but only after the 1st 10 minutes of class. Restrooms are just around the corner, and students need to use them before or after class. Emergencies and extenuating circumstances will be accepted for special passes.

Required Work:

LATE WORK IS NOT ACCEPTED - FOR FULL CREDIT!

All assignments must be turned in on the assigned due date or the assignment will not get a complete assessment for full credit. No work will be accepted 2 weeks after the original due date, for a grade, you can get effort points . Alternate Assignments can only replace a missing assignment that cannot be made up. If you plan to miss a day, please ask for the work in advance, if you cannot, hopefully you can use your tablet to connect to the class during your absence and do the work. On the day that you return, look for the assignment on Google Classroom and find the work that was given out. Please do not ask me at the start of the class, ask a fellow student, or go to Google Classroom before returning to class.

REQUIRED MATERIALS:

- Your school issued Chromebook
- Textbook: **HISTORY ALIVE!** (which can be kept at home)
- A folder for your binder to place the few papers that are used in class.
- **optional:** 2 pens, 2 pencils, a sharpener, scotch tape, colored pencil set, small scissors and a highlighter or two.
- A mouse for your tablet (wireless or corded) is recommended cost = \$9.99 to \$39.99 most expensive
- a stylus (a soft tipped pen) for touch screens is also recommended.