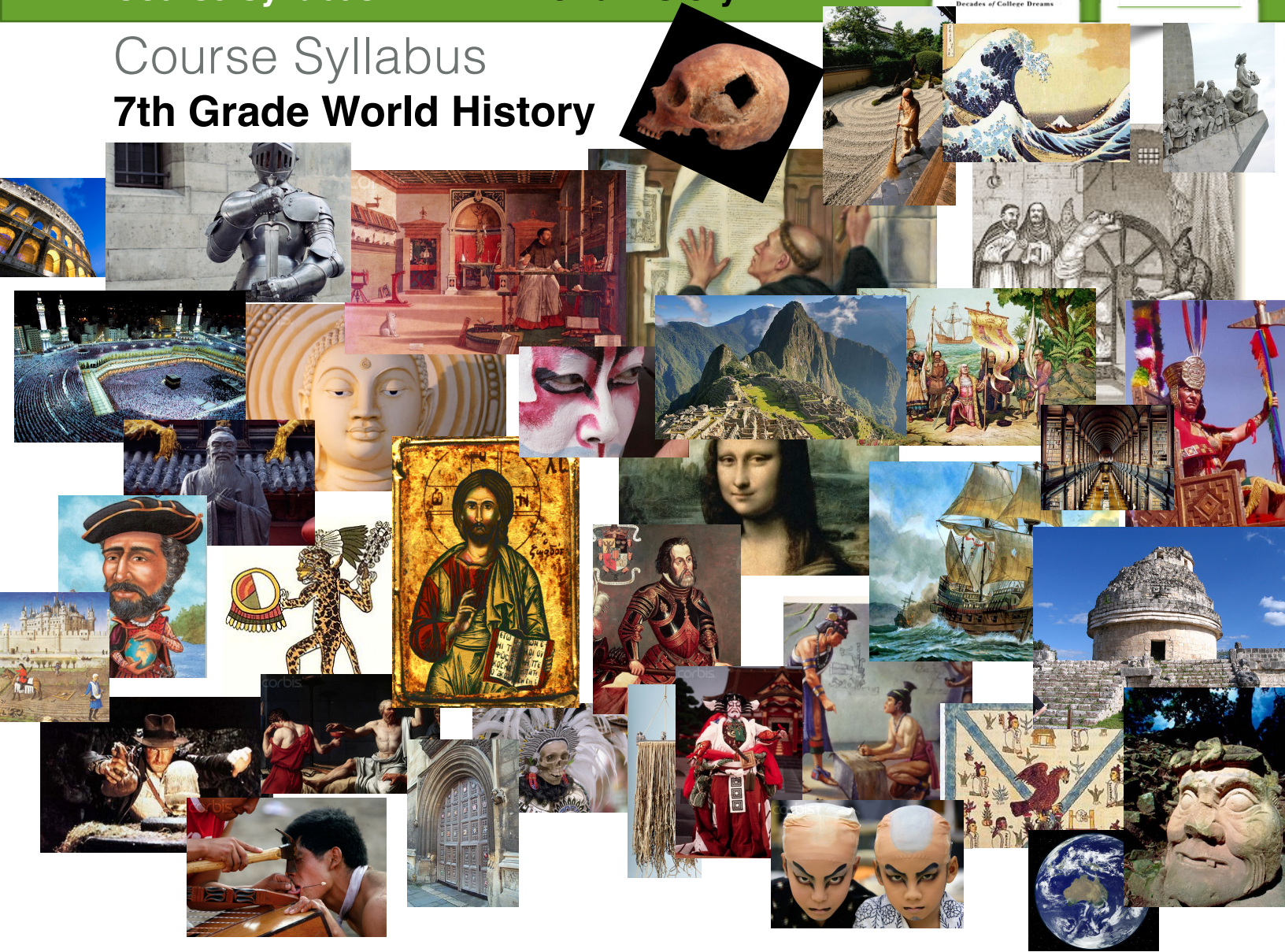


# Course Syllabus 7th Grade World History



**"History is the Memory of a Nation."**

## Welcome and Introduction

History is a subject that knows no middle ground...people either **love it** or **hate it**. Luckily for you, I'm one of the ones who absolutely loves it! I believe history is the most interesting subject to study because it is all about **people**. Essentially, **history is storytelling**, and Americans love a good story (just check out your local movie theater's ticket sales). *I've always thought the history of the world is a lot like Middle*

*School....power struggles, the search for meaning and identity, gossip and intrigue, war and peace...* It also seems like it is human nature for us to want to stick our noses in everyone else's business, and that is what we'll be doing this year; you could say we are going to become "**chismosos** of the past." Studying history helps us to understand our own lives and the world we live in. The goal of study in my class is not to





memorize a long list of names, places, dates, and events that are long-gone, but rather to use those names, places, and events to help us make sense of our present and, hopefully, provide some guidance for our future.

The over-arching theme that will serve as a lens for our study of history will deal with the question, **"How in the world did we get here?"** Additionally, we will be learning how to **"Think Like a Historian."** I will be developing in you the skills, mindsets, and abilities historians use to uncover, think about, and make use of the past.

Several sub-themes/questions will also be explored in detail, namely;

1. **Geography and Culture:** How does where you live affect how you live?
2. **Historical Patterns:** How does a civilization's ability to solve problems affect whether they thrive or decline and fall? Why do empires/civilizations rise and fall?
3. **Belief Systems:** What is life all about? How do our beliefs affect our actions?
4. **Continuity and Change:** How has the world changed and stayed the same throughout human history?
5. **Society:** How do societies organize themselves, and what contributions have they made to world history?
6. **STEM:** How does technology solve problems, help unlock new opportunities, and create new challenges? What are the reasons, routes, and results of creativity?
7. **Power and Economics:** How are power and economics related?

**Planned Course of Study This Year**

Semester One (August 5-December 17)	Semester Two (January 12- June 10)
<p><b>How To Think Like A Historian (Ch.1)</b></p> <p><b>To Rule Mankind and Make the World Obey: Rome (Ch. 2)</b></p> <p><b>The Middle Ages in Europe (Ch.9-10)</b></p> <p><b>Islam: Empire of Faith (Ch.3-4)</b></p> <p><b>West African Empires (Ch.5-6)</b></p>	<p><b>Revolution Europe</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* Not Just Ninja Turtles (Renaissance) (Ch.13)</li> <li>* Mythbusters (Scientific Revolution) (Ch.15)</li> <li>* The Breakup (Reformation) (Ch.14)</li> <li>* Age of European Exploration (Ch.15)</li> </ul> <p><b>Civilizations of the Americas (Ch.11-12)</b></p> <p><b>Imperial China (Ch.7)</b></p> <p><b>Medieval Japan (Ch.8)</b></p>

**My Goals For You This Year**

1. **Awaken a love for learning and develop the skills** needed to become a life-long learner.
2. Equip you with the reading, writing, questioning, and thinking skills you will need to be **prepared for college.**
3. Learn to **analyze and interact** with various sources of historical information, including artifacts, primary and secondary source documents, and works of art.
4. Engage you in a rigorous, college-prep social studies curriculum, aligned to the California State Standards and Common Core Anchor Standards for College and Career Readiness.
5. **Speak and write about historical topics with original thought**, producing analysis and commentary to support your interpretation of data.
6. Deepen your understanding of and sensitivity to the world's cultures.



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**Required Materials**

The following materials are required for the class and should be brought with you every day:



- Sturdy, 2+ inch 3-ring binder** -- This is not just for Advanced World History...it will be used for all of your classes. Your 3-ring binder should be 2-3 inches and include dividers to separate your different classes. You will bring your binder to school everyday. Do not ask others to carry or hold your binder for you...it is YOUR responsibility.
- Spiral Notebook** -- 120 pgs minimum, college-ruled paper or unlined. Your spiral notebook is where all class notes will be kept and will be graded at the end of each unit of study. You will have your spiral notebook with you every day.
- Student Handbook/Agenda** -- You will receive an agenda on or near the first day of school. At the beginning of each class you will take it out and write down the day's activity and any homework assignments you have for that evening. If there is no homework assigned, write HW: none.
- Colored Pencils, Pens, Highlighters (Recommended)** -- You will be producing a lot of art in class this year. I have colored pencils and markers in class, but I highly **recommend** you have your own and bring them with you everyday.

**How Do You Earn Grades in This Class?**

I believe grades are earned by students rather than given by a teacher, and that they should be a true reflection of a student's learning and academic skill development. I place a high value on students **revising and resubmitting** assignments until they have demonstrated their best work. You have **one week** from the time your graded assignment is returned to you to revise and resubmit assignments and tests. After that, the grade stands.



When an assignment is turned in, it will be assessed by either the teacher, aide, or classmate using a rubric. Most assignments are worth 5 points and correspond to a proficiency level (5=Advanced, 4=Proficient, 3=Basic, etc.). However, different categories of work are given different weights in the overall grade. since tests/quizzes are are weighted at 35% of the total grade, they carry more weight when determining the final grade.



*If you wish to challenge a grade on an assignment, make arrangements to speak to me about the issue.*

Grading Categories	General Rubric For Work
Assessments ( <i>EOSE, Tests, Essays, Quizzes, Projects</i> )...35%	<b>A-Level Work = Advanced:</b> Work is outstanding, displaying obvious time and thought in its creation, mastery of historical detail, and is neat and well-organized. Work displays creativity and originality and contains minimal errors in spelling, grammar, and content.
Homework/Classwork .....65%	<b>B-Level Work = Proficient:</b> Work is very good and has much of what is an "A" grade, but is not as neat, contains more errors in writing/historical detail. Demonstrates creativity and above-average knowledge of the subject matter. Is carefully created.
Total .....100%	

## Grading Scale

**100-90% = A**  
**89-80% = B**  
**79-70% = C**  
**69-60% = D**  
**59-00% = F**

*Student must attend summer school, if offered, to make up unearned credits. Earning an F in a core academic class also places you at risk for not walking in the 8th grade promotion ceremony.*

**C-Level Work = Basic:** Work is fine/average/acceptable. It does not display as much time or effort but achieved the minimum requirement for the assignment without doing more or less. Contains errors in grammar, spelling, detail or skill mastery.

**D-Level Work = Below Basic:** Work is poor quality and may be incomplete of requirements, messy, full of errors, and shows little attention to detail or mastery of the skill.

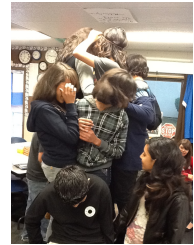
**F-Level Work = Far Below Basic:** Work is of very low quality, is halfway completed or less, and shows little or know effort and very little attention to detail.

**Keep in mind that work that is turned in on time can be revised and resubmitted within one week of the day your assignment is returned to you.**

## Course Policies and Expectations

### Participation

Participation is key to success. An active participant shares his or her ideas with their partner(s), group, and/or class, completes assignments on time, works collaboratively in groups, and contributes to the class as a whole. You should also participate in school activities such as clubs or after school sports. A student who gets involved in his or her school experiences greater success in academic classes, learns valuable life lessons, and typically develops great friendships.



### Organization

Students who are organized turn in assignments more regularly, forget to do things less often, are more successful, and live with much less stress than disorganized students. Middle School can be very stressful at times....do yourself a favor by being organized.



### Class work

You will be expected to class work on time. Work that is not completed in class must be completed at home and brought to the next class meeting. There are penalties for turning in late work, so get in the habit of completing assignments on time.

### Homework

You will have homework throughout the week. Typically homework will consist of completing readings and notes to prepare for class discussions and activities. Occasionally, assignments started but not finished in class will be given I as homework. As the following day's work will usually depend on/build on your completion of the homework assigned, it is essential that you complete all assigned homework.

### Late Work

Any assignment turned in late will automatically be penalized one letter grade. You have **2 weeks** after the due date to turn in a late assignment. After that, it will not be accepted for credit.



### Revising and Resubmitting Work

I place a high value on students **revising and resubmitting** assignments until they have demonstrated their best work. You have **one week** from the time you receive your graded work and tests back to revise and resubmit for a chance to earn a higher score. Fixing and turning in work again does not guarantee you will earn more points -- you must demonstrate greater mastery of the material to earn more points. Students are allowed to take tests and quizzes again as well. Make an appointment to re-take a test before or after school. Class time will not be given for re-taking tests and quizzes.



### World History E.R. (Emergency Room)

To ensure your success, you may be required to attend after-school tutoring. Throughout the quarter, I will provide you with grade reports to keep you updated about your progress in class. If you are earning a D or F, you will be required to attend after-school tutoring until your grade rises to at least a B-. Your parents will be contacted to inform them of your mandatory tutoring.

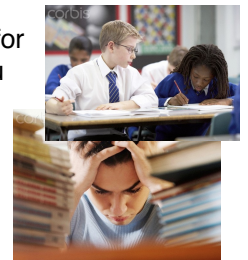
## Class Guidelines and Procedures

**Here is a brief description of what I expect from you in class.** Following rules is like living in a lawful society. We follow laws in society in order to maintain an orderly world, one that is safe and secure. We may not always agree with the rules or laws, but we must do our best to uphold them whenever possible. The same is true for this class. The are rules for this class that we all must follow. You do not have to agree with the rules, but you must adhere to them. In this class you are expected to follow all school-wide rules (i.e. no gum, no cell-phone use, no personal music devices, and dress code regulations, to name a few). There are also some guidelines that are specific to this class.

1. During **discussions**, respect other student's comments, opinions, and ideas. **Listen** to what others say and don't interrupt.
2. Do not hold your **hand** in the air while another student is speaking/responding. If you are not called on, put your hand down, look at and listen to the person who is speaking, then put your hand in the air when they have finished.
3. Always **say thank you** when I give you something. If you do not say it within 3 seconds after receiving the item, I will take it back. There is no excuse for not showing appreciation.
4. When we read together in class, you must **follow along**. If I call on you to read, you must know exactly where we are and begin reading immediately.
5. At times throughout the year I will give you rewards for good behavior, academic performance, and other acts worthy of praise. If you ever ask me for a reward, however, it will not be given. It is rude to ask if you are getting something for good behavior. You should be good and try your best because you are trying to better yourself, not because you are anticipating a reward. If you ask, no one will be given anything.
6. Make **eye contact**. When someone is speaking, keep your eyes on them. If someone makes a comment, turn and face them.
7. Homework will be turned in "each day" by every student. Late work is penalized one letter grade and will no longer be accepted beyond two weeks of the due date.
8. You will make every effort to be as **organized** as possible.
9. When you are with a **substitute teacher** you will obey the same rules that you follow when I am with you. If I find out anyone was unruly, the consequences are going to be **severe** when I return.
10. Speak at appropriate times in an appropriate way.
11. You may bring a bottle of **water** or drink with a sealable lid into class. Do not ask me to get a drink while I am teaching a lesson. Be sure to throw away empty bottles in the appropriate bin in class.
12. Do not, under any circumstances, ever, never, ever bring or eat **Doritos** into my classroom.

Thank You.

13. Quickly **learn the names** of your classmates and other teachers/school personnel on campus.
14. **Be respectful** to all living and non-living things in the room. Never write on the tables and always take care of the class supplies.
15. **Be prepared.** Come to class each day with your binder, student handbook, and all other required materials. Do not allow another student to "hold your stuff for you." They are not your *burro*.
16. **Be creative** by thinking of new ways to solve problems and demonstrate learning.
17. Accept that you are going to make mistakes. **Learn from them and move on.**
18. If you need to sharpen your pencil, simply **hold your pencil in the air** and wait for me to make eye contact with you. I will nod at you and then you can get up to sharpen it.
19. If you need to use the **restroom**, raise your hand and ask permission. You will be given an orange hall pass. You will need to sign out and quickly use the restroom. **You will not be allowed to use the restroom the first or last 15 minutes of class.** Please reserve restroom privileges for emergencies only.
20. Work will be turned in to the appropriate **hanging file** on the wall in the back of the classroom. Be sure to write your name on all work that is turned in. Write your name, date, and class period on all assignments.
21. When you miss class, it is your responsibility to **find out what you missed.** Please arrange to talk to me to pick up any missing work.
22. **Grades will be updated on a weekly basis.** The primary method for checking your grade will be by using **Zangle Student Connect.** If the grade report shows that you are missing an assignment you have already turned in and received back, all you have to do is bring me the graded assignment and I will make it right. It is very important to keep all returned work until the end of each grading period. Printed grade reports will be given when requested.
23. The first thing you will do when you enter class is copy the day's **agenda** in your student handbook. Write everything you see on the board and indicate whether or not you have homework. Then complete your **Do Now** warmup activity in the appropriate place. I should not have to ask you to write your agenda or complete your Do Now....it will become automatic.
24. Get used to working with lots of different people. The seating chart changes a lot in this class and there are many different ways I group students to work on assignments. If you are having a problem with another student in class, please talk to me in private as soon as possible.
25. When working in a group on an assignment, structured discussion, or project, you must **contribute to the work.** It is unacceptable to stand by and watch others do all the work. There are no "free rides" when it comes to a collaborative assignment. If you are not contributing in a meaningful way, you will do the assignment on your own.
26. Do not begin packing up until I instruct you to do. In this class we work **"bell to bell."** You will be given a chance to organize your materials in your binder at the end of class.
27. If you do not understand an assignment or the work we are doing in class you should **a)** come to me so I can explain it again or in another way, **b)** email me to ask a question, **c)** get to know at least one person in class that call talk to or call if you get stuck, **d)** sign up to get some after-school tutoring in my class.
28. **Take pride in the work you do!** The work you do is a direct reflection of who you are. It shows me what you know and know how to do. All work must be complete and legible. Assignments that are crumbled or destroyed in any way will not receive credit.
29. **Cheating** will not be tolerated. If you copy someone's work or ideas you will receive a zero for that assignment, a detention, and I will call your parents/guardians. The same applies if you knowingly allow someone to copy from your work.
30. If you find yourself stumbling, overwhelmed, or generally stressed out, that's a signal to make an appointment to **talk with me or your counselor.** We will offer support and help you get through it.



**"WE ARE NOT MAKERS OF HISTORY. WE ARE MADE BY HISTORY." – MLK**



**Consequences Include**

- \* Verbal Warning
- \* Detention and/or Parent Contact
- \* Period Isolation and Parent Contact
- \* Referral to Office

**If My Grade Drops Below A "C"...**

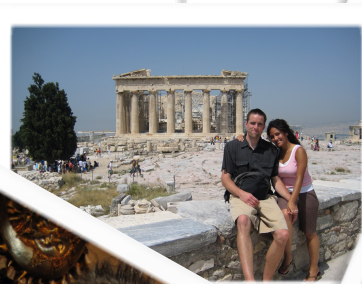
*Any grade lower than a C is not passing and you should find your "panic button" and move heaven and earth to get your grade up. Your parent will be contacted and we will work on finding a solution to the problem. This may include staying for after school tutoring and using a daily contract system to keep your family tuned in to your progress.*

**A Little Info About Your Teacher...**

This is my **16th year** teaching at Colton Middle School and I've had a blast educating the young people in this community. I attended California Baptist University in Riverside, where I earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in Political Science and a minor in History. I also earned my teaching credential from the same university. I met my beautiful wife at CMS and we have been married for 10 years. We have two little girls, Sophia and Gianna. I love to teach, read, watch movies, drink coffee, ride my beach cruiser with my darling, play soccer and basketball, travel, discuss ideas, and play with my two girls.

**Contact Me:** My prep-time this year is during **Period 5**. Feel free to call me during my prep or before and after school. Please leave a message if I am unable to answer your call and I will do my best to contact you within 24 hours.

**Room #23      909.580.3647**  
**john\_mcguffee@cjsud.net**  
**mrmcguffee.weebly.com**





**Acknowledgment of Receipt of Syllabus, Parent Contact Information, and Permission to Watch Videos**

<p><b>Parent/Guardian Contact Information</b> <i>Please complete all applicable sections.</i></p> <p><b>Student Name</b></p> <hr/> <p><b>Parent(s)/Guardian(s) Name(s)</b></p> <hr/> <hr/> <p><b>Home Phone</b></p> <hr/> <p><b>Cell Phone</b></p> <hr/> <p><b>Work Phone</b></p> <hr/> <p><b>email</b></p> <hr/> <hr/>	<p><b>Permission to Watch Videos/Clips</b></p> <p>Occasionally, while teaching a unit, I will show a movie/video or clip that is based on the theme or main idea we are examining. Clips are rarely longer than 5 minutes and are used to increase visual literacy for the topic being studied. Many of our students are visual learners and I have found that using movies or clips can be a powerful tool for helping students understand and interact with the curriculum. It is District policy to obtain parent/guardian approval before showing any movie that does not have a G rating. The following are examples of movies/clips I normally show during the course of the school year to help illustrate or develop an idea/theme.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>A Knight’s Tale (PG 13):</b> Tournament/Jousting Scene</li> <li>• <b>The Lord of the Rings: Return of the King (PG 13):</b> Feudal oath scene</li> <li>• <b>Luther (PG 13):</b> Various scenes depicting events of the Protestant Reformation</li> <li>• <b>Ben Hur (NR):</b> Chariot Race Scene</li> <li>• <b>Lawrence of Arabia (PG):</b> Scenes depicting the Arabian landscape and nomads crossing the desert</li> </ul> <p>I rarely show a complete movie in class; mostly just clips to illustrate a point. I do my best to exercise good judgment when selecting movies/clips and believe these go a long way towards helping students understand themes we are studying. I also make it a point to edit out objectionable material while we are watching. Please indicate your choice by writing your initials on the appropriate line. If you indicate “NO,” your student will be given an alternative assignment. Feel free to contact me with any questions regarding movies or clips shown in class.</p>
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**YES**, my student may watch movies/clips from movies with a rating higher than G.

**NO**, my student may not watch movies/clips from movies whose rating is higher than G.

<p><b>I Will...</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* Equip you with the skills you need to be successful in class.</li> <li>* Ensure this class is academically rigorous.</li> <li>* Support your academic needs and curiosities.</li> <li>* Communicate with both you and your parents concerning your progress.</li> <li>* Provide meaningful learning experiences.</li> <li>* Build your character.</li> <li>* Encourage you and hold you accountable for progress and behavior.</li> <li>* Create an atmosphere in class that promotes learning and the development of “family.”</li> </ul> <hr/> <p>Teacher Signature</p>	<p><b>You (The Student) Will...</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* Actively participate in class and complete assignments thoroughly and promptly.</li> <li>* Attend class daily, arriving on-time and ready to learn and work.</li> <li>* Maintain at least a “C” grade in this class.</li> <li>* Keep a well-organized 3-ring binder with a separate section for each class and bring your binder and other supplies daily.</li> <li>* Maintain satisfactory citizenship in all classes.</li> <li>* Take advantage of opportunities to re-do work for mastery of content and skills.</li> <li>* Attend after-school tutoring when needed.</li> </ul> <hr/> <p>Student Signature</p>	<p><b>Your Parent(s)/Guardian(s) Will...</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* Checking and signing your student’s handbook/agenda weekly.</li> <li>* Check Zangle Student Connect on a weekly basis.</li> <li>* Attend parent meetings and conferences.</li> <li>* Encourage and support their student’s academic progress.</li> <li>* Provide a quiet place for their student to work daily on homework assignments.</li> </ul> <hr/> <p>Parent/Guardian Signature</p>
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