Merryhill School

1400 Yosemite Drive

Milpitas, CA

**8th Grade American History Part 2 —Ms. Husa**

**Portable H**

August 2015

Dear Students and Parents/Guardians,

 Welcome to the 2015-2016 academic year at Merryhill! I am very excited to work with you throughout the year. Please take time to read over the class requirements and guidelines. Return the signed acknowledgement form to me TOMORROW (August 11th), along with a picture of your child (any age) for my “Spotlight On…” board in the classroom. Thank you, and here’s to a great year!

**Course Description**

This is a course in American History, beginning with the Civil War and ending with the present day.

Quarter 1: Unit 5, “The Nation Breaks Apart”, + ½ Unit 6, “A Growing America”

Quarter 2: ½ Unit 6, “A Growing America”, + Unit 7, “The Beginning of Modern America”

Quarter 3: Unit 8, “Boom Times & Challenges”

Quarter 4: Unit 9, “Postwar America”, + ½ Unit 10, “Modern America”

**Learning Goals/Outcomes**

This class is designed to prepare your students for success in their high school history classes. Throughout the course, students will be engaging directly with the materials through interactive projects, research, and presentations. Students will be expected to synthesize their knowledge of the past with current events, making connections to their own lives and answering the age-old question, “But if it already *happened*, why do we have to learn about it *now?!*”

**Instructional Materials**

Please bring the following materials to class everyday:

1. Interactive Notebook.
2. Pen or a pencil.
3. Highlighter.
4. Optional: colored pencils, markers, scissors, glue, and other project supplies.

**Assignments & Grades**

Assignments should be turned in on time. Homework will be posted on JupiterGrades.com for the entire week.

 Per the Merryhill policy, if your assignment is late on the day it is due you will receive a 10% deduction in grade. If the assignment is one day late, you will receive a 30% deduction in grade. After that, your score will become a zero.

 If you are absent the day an assignment is due, you have as many days as you were absent with an excused absence to make up the work. It is your responsibility to submit the assignment upon your return to Merryhill.

**Current Event Reports**

 Students will complete a monthly Current Event Report. This assignment requires students to read a news article, summarize the information *in their own words*, and answer at least two personal response prompts about what they have read. The report follows a specific format. A hard copy of the form will be given to students and explained during class time; a soft copy of the form can also be found on JupiterGrades.com in the “Files and Links” section. The Current Event Reports are worth 15 points in the Quiz category. Topics will either be assigned in class or will be student’s choice.

**Tests & Quizzes**

 For each chapter we cover, there will be at least one quiz and an end-of-chapter assessment. The assessment will always be counted in the Test category, but will sometimes be a project (either group or individual), or other type of non-traditional test. Ms. Husa reserves the right to assign both scheduled *and* “pop” quizzes when the need arises. ☺

**Ms. Husa’s Contact Information**

I am available for questions and/or help before school, during lunch, or after school. For before or after school appointments, please try and make plans with me in advance. Students and parents can also email me with any questions and/or concerns. My email address is Carolyn.Husa@nlcinc.com.

**PLEASE SIGN AND RETURN TO MS. HUSA**

**Student Acknowledgment Form**

I, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, have received, read, and

 (print student name)

accept the expectations, rules, procedures, and policies for Ms. Husa’s class.

Student signature: **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Parent/Guardian Acknowledgement Form**

I, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, have received, read, and

 (print parent/guardian name)

accept the expectations, rules, procedures, and policies for Ms. Husa’s class

with my child \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

 (print student’s name here)

Parent/Guardian Signature: **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**