Greetings Parents and Guardians!

My name is Terry Boler and I am your child’s AP World History teacher for Spring 2022. I wanted to take the time to introduce myself and open the lines of communication. I am really big on communicating and building positive relationships with my students, and hopefully I can build one with you as well. Additionally, I wanted to explain how you can best help your child succeed in this challenging course.

This is my 12th year of teaching history in Desoto County, and I absolutely love it. I currently teach World History but have taught US History as well as PSAT and English IV. I have my undergraduate in Secondary Education Social Studies and I am certified to teach both History and English. In 2018, I received my graduate degree in Pastoral Counseling. I have been certified to teach both AP US History and World History Modern and have an advanced certification in teaching with primary source documents. This will be my first year to teach APWH Modern and I am really excited about it! I am a huge sports fan-I love the Mississippi State Bulldogs, the San Francisco 49ers and of course I am a huge DC Jags fan. I am married to a Desoto County AP teacher and coach who is the smartest guy I know. I have 3 beautiful children and even cuter grands (3!). Your student and I will definitely get to know a lot about each other over the school year, but I wanted to tell you a little about myself as well!

Now, about the course. While I ask that you go through the syllabus with your student after they receive it in January, this part is just for you:

First, THANK YOU for putting time and effort towards your student’s education by supporting them and signing them up for this class. I have tremendous respect and appreciation for parents and guardians who encourage and support their children, and while your teenager may not always show their appreciation, I promise you it matters to them as well. If you are new to the whole AP world, please visit https://parents.collegeboard.org/college-board-programs/advanced-placement-program or feel free to contact me with questions!

Throughout the entire school year, please continue to commend your student for enrolling in such a challenging course. AP World History is a difficult course that will require continual mental exertion, as this is a college level course, and your tenth grader is taking it! Many students back away from the challenge of a course like this, so keep encouraging yours to “stick with it” especially during tough times.

The first few assignments (particularly essays and even tests) may be frustrating for students, as they learn what methods work best for completing them and how to best meet the expectations of an AP course. Many times, students will come home discouraged (and sometimes in tears) because they are not scoring well on tests, quizzes, or essays. In most cases, your student is working hard- encourage them to keep their chin up and to hold their head high. Remind them that things will most likely improve as the year goes on and they grow more comfortable with the material, format, and expectations of the course. Your student may also express frustration at the types of assignments as well as the length and frequency of them-and you might as well! I ask that you and your student remind yourselves that this is a college course, and it is challenging but also rewarding in so many ways.

The tests, quizzes, and essays given in AP courses simulate the AP exam, so students need this practice if we expect them to be successful on the exam in May, which you will receive more information about later. Your student will be taking college level tests and writing at the collegiate level. They will read excerpts from college level textbooks and have discussions that rival those of a history seminar

course in college. It will be difficult, but this course will not only help them develop a thorough understanding of world history, but they will also develop key skills and abilities that will help them succeed throughout the rest of high school, in college, graduate school, and life. Please encourage your student to join and meet regularly with classmates in an AP World History study group, whether it is in person or just through a group text. These groups prove to be immensely helpful to most students in terms of both studying and camaraderie. It is often reassuring to students to be reminded that “they’re in this together” and to have additional support from one another.

Often students will make their first “B” or “C” in an AP course. For a hardworking student (and their parent) that has never seen anything below an “A” on their report card, this can be extremely difficult. Please use this experience to remind them that they are taking a college course, and that if they have been putting in their best effort, they should be proud of their work and for taking on this challenge as a sophomore Remind them that a “B” or “C” in AP is just as honorable as getting an “A” in a course that isn’t as rigorous, provided they are putting forth their best effort. I firmly believe that a letter grade does not determine a person’s worth, and I try to encourage confidence in my students even when they struggle.

The course load and assignments/homework for AP courses are demanding. They require a lot of homework because there is simply not enough time to cover everything that could potentially be on the exam during class time. We also will have assignments that your student may need to continue working on at home, but I try to be mindful about this and incorporate it in as their homework for the day. Your student will have homework most nights, including over the weekends and school breaks. Assignments are typically designed to prepare students for future class activities and discussions or to check for understanding so it is important to keep up with the work. It can also pile up if they are not practicing time management and get stuck with a lot of makeup work to do.

Please check in with your students - ask what they are learning about in class. Ask them to walk you through a PowerPoint or to show you how to analyze a primary source. One of the best things you can do to help your child prepare for a test in AP World History is to TALK them through their study guide, digital notebook, or unit online-ask them to explain concepts in depth, connect people to events, and to explain how different places and time periods are connected.

Last, please work with your student on time management as well. Ask to see their digital notebook or calendar to know what’s going on in class (and what assignments may be coming up!) If your student is particularly busy with athletics or other extracurricular activities, remind them to balance their time accordingly. Encourage them not to put themselves in a situation that ends with an “all-nighter.” Remind them to complete their digital unit notebook before the exams. I will always be doing the same at school, but it always helps them to hear it supported at home as well.

I really do love my job and I take pride in this profession. I will do my best to work with you and your child to help them succeed in and out of my class. I’ve built lasting relationships with my students and parents over the years, and I would love to do the same with you and your student. Please do not hesitate to contact me with any information, questions, or concerns.

Thank you,

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