Panther Creek High School

**WORLD HISTORY – MR. Volkmar** (cvolkmar@wcpss.net)

Fall 2016, Room M207

SMART Lunch – Wednesday (M211) and Friday (M211)

**Course Overview:**

Welcome to World History! I am excited to begin a new semester and looking forward to a rigorous, yet fun-filled semester. Let me say right away that I have the highest expectations of each and every one of you. It should be your goal to earn an A in this class and I am here to do everything I can to help you achieve at the highest level. During the course of the semester please to not hesitate to ask me questions and seek extra help when necessary (SMART LUNCH). Today we will find out how your grades will be calculated this semester and a brief description of grading policies, classroom assignments and expectations.

**Course Description:**

World History at the ninth grade level is a survey course that gives students the opportunity to explore recurring themes of human experience common to civilizations around the globe from ancient to contemporary times.An historical approach will be at the center of the course. The application of the themes of geography and an analysis of the cultural traits of civilizations will help students understand how people shape their world and how their world shapes them. As students examine the historical roots of significant events, ideas, movements, and phenomena, they encounter the contributions and patterns of living in civilizations around the world. Students broaden their historical perspectives as they explore ways societies have dealt with continuity and change, exemplified by issues such as war and peace, internal stability and strife, and the development of institutions. To become informed citizens, students require knowledge of the civilizations that have shaped the development of the United States. *World History* provides the foundation that enables students to acquire this knowledge which will be used in the study of *Civics and Economics* and *United States History*.

**PCHS Basic Expectations**

1) Be Present and On Time

2) Be Prepared and Engaged in Learning

3) Be a Person of Character

4) Be Safe and Comply with all PCHS and WCPSS Policies

**Grades**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | Major Grades | Classwork/Minor Grades | Homework | Student Engagement |
| Honors | 60 | 25 | 10 | 5 |
| Academic | 50 | 30 | 10 | 10 |

Classwork and homework assignments will be graded using a 4 point scale. Some classwork assignments will be combined for grading purposes.

The grades are broken down as follows: 4=100, 3=89, 2=79, 1=69, 0=40

Major grades if not completed will not receive credit.

\*As of the 2015-16 school year Honors students will receive .5 quality points added to their GPA.

**Test corrections will be available during the course of the semester. Students who score below an 80 on tests may come in during SMART LUNCH to do test corrections. Each properly done test correction is worth half the points of the original question capping at 80% .**

**Class Work/Homework:**

Classwork, Homework, and Participation account for a large portion of your grade. Needless to say these assignments will be very important for you as you begin your work this semester. I expect that homework will be completed to the best of your ability on a nightly basis. The purpose of homework is to extend and enrich classwork, and provide opportunities for the development of initiative, creativity, and responsibility. The study of history requires due diligence on your part to review material and read for comprehension.

**Attendance, Missed, and Late Work:**

In the event of an absence, each student is responsible for making up his or her work. If you are absent, the day you return you are to turn in the work from the last day you were present. In the event of an absence, a student can make up work under the conditions listed in the *Panther Creek High School Student/Parent Handbook.*

Homework assignments will be posted on the “Canvas” website and may be accessed via a school computer or home computer with Internet capability. Students may also check the “What did I Miss” wall for materials distributed the day of their absence.

Students will be penalized for turning work in late with the following scales; Homework, each day the homework assignment is late will result in a decrease of 1 point off following the 4 point grading scale (ex. a possible score of 4 will result in a score of 3). After 4 days the most that can be earned is a 40. Projects will lose 10 points a day up to a sixty point maximum.

**Hall Passes and Tardies:**

Students will need to use the restroom and gather materials prior to the tardy bell. Students are expected to be in their seat and ready to work when the tardy bell rings (this includes having pencil sharpened and having materials out). Excessive tardies will be dealt with according to school policy. The First and last ten minutes of class are important for establishing and assessing learning goals therefore passes will not be issued during those times.

**Student Engagement:**

It is absolutely necessary that you come to class prepared to challenge text, ask questions, and voice your opinion on any range of topics. We cannot have a successful classroom without full participation from everyone. My expectation is that everyone will take an active role in our classroom this semester.

**Materials:**

1. One binder that includes sections for: warm-ups, notes/handouts, homework..

2. Writing utensils (blue or black pens and pencils)

3. Loose-leaf paper

4. Colored pencils

**Strategies for Success:**

1. Take notes from lectures and assigned readings.
2.  Ask course-related questions.
3.  Turn in assignments on time.
4.  Discuss issues in a rational manner.
5. Seek extra help when needed. Students may attend tutorials during SMART lunch in room **M211.**.

**Academic Integrity**

It is the student’s responsibility to maintain integrity and uphold PCHS and WCPSS policies regarding cheating, plagiarism, falsification, violation of software copyright laws, and violation of computer access.

**Websites to Note:**

1. Canvas (World History-Mr. Volkmar)
2. PowerSchools
3. Study Island
4. Discovery Education
5. Grad Point
6. [www.mrvolkmarpchs.weebly.com](http://www.mrgreenpchs.weebly.com)

Thank you for your time and attention. I am looking forward to our semester together and hopefully you will learn to apply lessons from the past to be more productive in the present. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any concerns or questions.

Sincerely,

Mr. Chris Volkmar

**Parent Information**

In order for this class to be successful I believe that parents need to know what we are doing in class and how their child is progressing. I encourage you to ask your son/daughter about class and hold him/her accountable to complete assignments, including nightly homework. This course is a graduation requirement and will be structured around the goals and objectives the state of North Carolina has established for World History. Due to the fast-paced nature of the course you can expect your child to have homework on a NIGHTLY basis and to continually study and review previous information. Powerschool will assist you in monitoring your child’s academics.

I look forward to a wonderful semester, if you have any questions or concerns feel free to email me at cvolkmar@wcpss.net or call me at (919) 463-8656.

Thank you in advance for your help, support, and cooperation!

Please make sure you have read and fully understand the course description. You and your parent/guardian must read over the above information together and sign the last page of this document to acknowledge that you understand, accept, and will abide by the policies outlined in the course description. Please be sure to keep this document in the front of your binder for the duration of the semester as it will be necessary to refer to it in the coming weeks and months.

**I have read and understand the classroom policies and expectations and I understand the consequences for failing to adhere to these procedures.**

**(Student’s Signature)\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**I have read the classroom policies and fully understand what is expected of my child.**

**(Parent/Guardian’s Signature)\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**