

PINE VALLEY MIDDLE SCHOOL
Course Description
2009-2010

Mrs. Hegarty
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Content Core

The course content for Core (U.S. History 8 and English 8) is exactly the same as specified in the district curriculum in accordance with the Standards and Benchmarks for Social Science and Language Arts. In history, we will compare and contrast time periods from colonization and westward expansion through the Civil War and industrialization. We will thoroughly study the United States Constitution and government. Reports/projects will be assigned on a quarterly basis. We will read one to two historical novels. Students will also be required to give at least one oral report.

In English, we will cover grammar, literature, writing, spelling, and vocabulary. Students will be expected to write on a regular basis using the rules for correct grammar, spelling, punctuation, and usage. We will be utilizing the New York Writing Project and keeping two class portfolios. Book reports will be assigned regularly. We will read between four to seven novels and many short stories. Students will also be required to give at least two speeches.

Class Rules

You will behave in such a way that all members of the class may work on assigned tasks without interruption. No student may disturb the work of others. Be polite and considerate of each other, the instructor, and visitors to the classroom. In addition to the above basic rules of courtesy, I will also expect the following:

1. **BE ON TIME** or the following consequences will occur: first tardy-warning; second tardy-litter detention; third tardy- 15 minute detention and parent notification; fourth tardy-office referral.
2. No gum chewing, eating, personal grooming, or sunglasses and hats in class. Visible cell phones, pagers, "toys", etc. will be confiscated and returned the last day of school.
3. Read and obey all of the rules as listed in the PINE VALLEY STUDENT HANDBOOK.

Materials

You will need a Core binder with five dividers, white college ruled paper (loose leaf, not in notebooks), two blue or black pens, two red correction pens, a set of colored pencils for map work, an eraser, and covered textbooks.

You will be required to keep a BINDER REMINDER. All homework assignments will be recorded in it, and it will be checked periodically.

Grading

Grades will be figured on a percentage basis spread out over a ten-week period. The ten areas will be comprised of quizzes, tests, written assignments, projects, class work, homework, and long term assignments. (90-100=A, 80-89=B, 70-79=C, 60-69=D, 59 and below=F). You are expected to retain all papers, by date given, in case there is a question about a grade. An F in homework will result in a grade which will be no higher than a C on the report card. You and your parents will be able to check your current grades at any time on the SCHOOLLOOP system. I will update SCHOOLLOOP every two weeks or every five grades (whichever comes first). Citizenship, class preparation, and participation can affect your grade. Excellent citizenship will be rewarded. Points will be given on a quarterly basis to students who have no citizenship violations.

Homework And Make-up Work

My homework policy is the same as the one adopted by our school board in 2008. Please check the Pine Valley website to see the policy for grade eight.

Except in cases of absence due to illness, assignments will be accepted for full credit ONLY on the day they are due. If you are absent, it is your responsibility to check for missed assignments and tests. You have three days after your last absence to make up your work. If more time is required, please contact the teacher. If you are absent only on the day of a test, you will be expected to take the test the day you return. Any make-up test or work not turned in becomes a zero.

LONG TERM ASSIGNMENTS ARE DUE ON THE DUE DATE. Due dates of all long term assignments will be on SCHOOLLOOP and/or **schoolnotes.com**.

Saturday School

As part of our intervention program for failing students, you may attend Saturday School once per quarter. You can make-up a maximum of three (3) missing assignments- EXCLUDING major or long term assignments.

I have read and understand the Course Description.

Date _____ Student
Signature _____

Date _____ Parent
Signature _____