



Mrs. Gilsenan – 8th Grade American History

(586) 445-4130 ext.2628

cgilsenan@scslakeview-k12.com

Visit: www.americanhistoryisfun.weebly.com for weekly agendas and class information.

Dear Parents/Guardians and Students,

I am Mrs. Gilsenan and I will be your American History teacher this year. I am looking forward to getting to know each of you and having a positive and successful year. Because I want everyone to have a great year, here are a few things to know in order to achieve success in history class.

About our History Class

- We will be studying American History from the Constitutional Convention in 1787 through the Reconstruction Period.
- We will be using the *History Alive!* program, which incorporates the use of multiple intelligence activities to ignite all students' passion for learning.
- Students will regularly work with a group as well as independently and will participate in such activities as act-it-outs, role-playing, song writing, debates, court sessions, and several other hands-on undertakings.
- By being an active participant in class, students will be able to "feel" what it was like to have lived during the time periods being studied.

Visit: http://www.michigan.gov/documents/mde/SSGLCE_218368_7.pdf for the content expectations that will be covered this year.

Materials Needed for Class:

1. History Alive! Textbook
2. Binder (1-2") or folder for storing and organizing handouts and assignments
3. Pencils and pens for writing all of the important information (blue or black ink please)
4. Colored pencils for notes and projects
5. A positive attitude and a willingness to be an active participant in class!

Expected Classroom Behavior

- **BE RESPONSIBLE** – Please come to class on time and be prepared to work with all the materials listed above. When the bell rings, everyone should be in his or her assigned seat and working on the daily starter. Be responsible for your own learning; listen during instruction, ask for help when you need it, and actively participate in class.



- **BE RESPECTFUL** – Please respect all students and teachers at all times. This means that negative or any type of inappropriate language will not be tolerated, and school property and personal belongings should never be abused. Also, when someone else is speaking please show him or her consideration by not talking and actively listening. Please raise your hand and wait until you are called on to speak.

**Please note that all other Jefferson Middle School rules of conduct apply.*

Grades

Grades will be weighted with 70% of your grade being based on summative assessments (chapter tests, projects, and major writing assignments) and 30% of your grade being based on formative assessments (classwork, homework, entrance and exit tickets, and checks for understanding).

Homework

Homework is given to complete the day's classwork or to enhance what we learned in class that day. Most days, class time will be given to begin the work, and whatever is not finished will be homework. Homework is due at the beginning of class the following day unless otherwise specified. Please write your name and hour on all assignments. Any assignment submitted without a name will be placed on the "no name clip" and it is up to you to retrieve it and resubmit it.

Late Work *"Better late than never, but never late is better."*

All required work **must** be turned in on the day it is due. Work received one day late will be marked down 10%. Work received more than one day late will be given partial credit. The deadline to turn in chapter related assignments for partial credit is prior to the chapter's summative assessment. Turning in work on time fosters responsibility...and helps to prepare you for high school and life.

Absent Work

Please make it your responsibility to find out what you missed when you are absent. Check the weekly agenda on the board in the classroom or go to the class website: www.americanhistoryisfun.weebly.com. Also, go to the assignment file/crate in the classroom for any handouts that you missed. You will have one day for each day absent to make-up the work. Assignments that were due the day you were absent will be due the day you return to class. Please write "absent" on your work so that it is not marked late.



Progress Reports

Parents and students are able to access *Power School* online to view the current course grade and to see what assignments have been turned in. Parents please remember that viewing your child's progress report is our best line of communication. Therefore, please make it a habit to check *Power School* frequently. Parent/teacher communication is essential for student success. If you have any questions or don't have Internet access please contact me.

Getting Help

If you need support with directions, an assignment, or the subject matter please ask for help! I am here to help you, and I am more than willing to make myself available for assistance. I am available after school or during lunchtime, just make arrangements with me ahead of time so that I know when to expect you.

I believe that these are reasonable expectations. I also feel that by making my expectations known to you, we will be able to work cooperatively. I welcome any communication from you. Let's all work together to make this a successful school year!

Sincerely,

Mrs. Gilsean

*** Please keep this copy for reference during the school year. Thank you! ***



STUDENT INFORMATION SHEET

Name of Student: _____

Parent/Guardian Contact Information:

Parent/Guardian Name(s)	
Home, Work and or Cell Number	
Email Address	

What is the best way to contact you? _____

Parent/Guardian Name(s)	
Home, Work and or Cell Number	
Email Address	

What is the best way to contact you? _____

Does your child have any health concerns and or special needs I should know about?

Should your child be wearing corrective lenses during class? _____

What other information do I need to know about your child to make his or her year a success? Use the back if necessary. Please feel free to brag!



Positive Behavior Supports: Mrs. Gilsenan's Classroom Expectations


Safety

- Use classroom materials appropriately.
- Keep hands, feet, and objects to yourself.

Tolerance

- Treat others as you would want to be treated.
- Accept others and their differences.

Achievement

- Do your personal best. I expect everyone to give 100% effort.
- "Attitude is a little thing that makes a big difference." Positive attitudes only! 

Respect

- Use kind, polite, and positive language.
- When someone else is speaking, please show consideration by not talking and being a good listener.
- Use care with school property and resources, as well as the belongings of fellow students.

Responsibility

- Come to class prepared to work with all needed materials.
- When class begins, be in your assigned seat, have out appropriate materials, and be ready to go!