Dear Future AP United States History Student,

Congratulations! You have enrolled in Advanced Placement United States History for the 2016 - 2017 school year. This course offers you the opportunity to receive not only college credit but also the opportunity to take a college-level course to prepare you for your college career. This is a rigorous and challenging course that will teach you how to critically think, read, and analyze both primary and secondary sources as well as give you the extensive knowledge of history that you need to get a ‘5’ on the AP United States History Exam in May 2017.

This course runs the entire year, in an A/B day format. What that means is that I will see you every other day from September through June. My current room is room 210. You will be using the American Pageant textbook, 15th edition, along with numerous outside resources to prepare you for the test. All of the reading material and work will be on a college level, and I expect all of your assignments to be completed at the same level.

Course Overview: This AP U.S. History course is designed to provide students with the analytic skills and factual knowledge necessary to deal critically with the problems and materials in U.S. history. The program prepares students for intermediate and advanced college courses by making demands upon them equivalent to those made by full-year introductory college courses. Students will learn to assess historical materials—their relevance to a given interpretive problem, reliability, and importance—and to weigh the evidence and interpretations presented in historical scholarship. This course will develop the skills necessary to arrive at conclusions on the basis of an informed judgment and to present reasons and evidence clearly and persuasively in essay format.

I look forward to an exciting and challenging year with all of you. Should you have any questions during the summer about the course or the summer work, please feel free to email me at rcafara@jacksonsd.org. I check my email frequently throughout the summer.



Raymond Cafara

**AP United States History Summer Checklist**

* Get the summer work from Mr. Cafara. This will be due the first day of class. You will also be taking a summer reading test the first day of class, so prepare accordingly.
* Keep/get the American Pageant textbook by the last day of school to keep over the summer so you can successfully complete the summer work.
* COMPLETE THE SUMMER WORK! Please feel free to email Mr. Cafara at any point during the summer if you have questions.
* Give Mr. Cafara your email address before the last day of school so you can be put on an email list to get updates on the course, reminders, and other pertinent information.
* Read James West Davidson's *After the Fact* to give you a kick-start to the course or Howard Zinn’s *A Peoples History of the United States*! The reading is optional but useful.

**Other Useful Information about AP US History:**

* You should only be enrolled in AP US History if you did well in your Honors United States History I class. If you got lower than a B, you probably DO NOT belong in AP history.
* This class is NOT about memorizing historical facts but about analyzing and interpreting those facts to come to meaningful conclusions. AP Unites States History is also very heavy on writing. Most of the class assessment involves essay and Short Answer writing
* You are required to take the College Board AP History exam in May if you take the class.
* You will be doing A LOT of work to prepare for the test, and this course is run like a college course. If you do not complete homework or read on your own, you DO NOT belong in this class. You also must be a good writer to do well in the class.
* There will be study sessions after school throughout the year before every large test, and starting in March there will be study sessions for the AP Exam after school and at night. You are strongly encouraged to attend these study sessions.
* You will be taking your AP Final Exam at night in the middle of April. This will be a full AP exam, and will be used for practice for the actual AP test, but the grade will count as your final exam grade. This is mandatory, and the date will be given months ahead of time.
* You will be reading the entire textbook before April, so it is important that you hand all work in on time, keep organized, and ask for help if you find yourself falling behind.

