

MRS. FICKES
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HONORS: HISTORY 7/ENGLISH 7

Welcome to junior high! I am looking forward to working with your child. In my estimation, the onset of junior high marks the beginning of "independence." Open lines of communication between the teacher and the student are essential for a successful year. The majority of what a student will learn will take place in class. It is key that your child feels comfortable asking questions and in seeking clarification about assignments and grades before they leave the classroom each day. Students need to feel confident and comfortable with their role in the educational process. This will enable them to be good communicators in the school-home connection. Supporting your student at home in monitoring homework, in proof reading assignments and in gathering necessary supplies and materials for projects will be helpful this year. Beyond differentiating the curriculum, covering the state standards and in preparing students for standardized testing, the following will be promoted in class:

*a sense of community in the classroom where individuality is encouraged and group support is required.

*to provide students with tools, strategies and organizational systems to foster:

study skills, time-management, a balanced school life, team work, critical thinking skills, active class participation, pride in group and individual work and academic honesty in home, class and research assignments.

The best way to reach me is by phone or by written note. A response will be communicated within 24 hours. General class information will be on the web site. (I will notify the students when more online options are up and running).

In an effort to promote student accountability:

STUDENTS MUST COPY THE HOMEWORK ASSIGNMENTS IN THEIR HORNER PLANNER-before leaving class each day.

HOW IS "HONORS" DIFFERENT FROM THE OTHER CLASSES?

FUSD Definition:

GATE will differentiate the curriculum using depth, complexity, and novelty. Students will be challenged to venture further into the area under study while making broader associations across subjects. Study will focus on personal interpretation and original investigation.

Simply put, this program will be a combination of vertical acceleration and horizontal enrichment. While all seventh grade students are required to cover the same state standards and district benchmarks, in honors, we will cover these requirements at a quicker pace. In addition to this, the curriculum will be differentiated by way of horizontal enrichment. Specifically, students will be provided with a variety of project options promoting in depth research, critical thinking skills and outside reading-allowing students to make a more personal connection to the required curriculum. Projects will be done individually and in groups and will be assigned as "in class" assignments as well as outside of the school day. Students must maintain a "C" or better to remain in the program. If placed on "academic probation" at the quarter grading period, notification is sent and students are referred to the school counselor for help.