

Dear Students and Parents,

I hope this finds you safe and well. I have missed seeing and interacting with all my students in the classroom every day. It's a very strange time we are living in, isn't it? But we are attempting to create a little oasis of normalcy in education by setting up distance learning. I know that it can all be a little overwhelming, and I understand that it may be hard for some students and parents, so I want you to know that I am willing to be flexible in order to help students to participate. I am trying to make it as easy as possible for students to still get their US History education for the rest of the year and to earn the grade that they are hoping for, so with that in mind, I have created a document that is meant to be a "one-stop" information sheet that will explain and link students to the various online places that I may reference when giving them assignments.

Also, I am asking that all students participate in the online survey form I've made. It's meant for a number of purposes: first, as a way for them to formally "check in" with me so I know they are able to receive my communications, second, for me to learn a little about how they are doing during this difficult time, and third, for me to learn about how familiar they are with the methods of distance learning that I may use.

I also wanted to let you know that the window for posting 3rd quarter grades had been extended to Thursday April 9, so I updated that grade to include anything that was turned in by March 13<sup>th</sup>. Students can still bring up their grades before the end of the semester by turning in missing items (they can do that by taking screenshots of them and sending them by way of the Remind app, or by emailing me – see the attachment for advice about that) and through the new items that I will be posting and grading during 4<sup>th</sup> quarter. But as per the state superintendent of schools, we are to "do no harm" to students regarding grades; in other words, the final semester grade will not be lowered from that posted 3rd quarter grade. In my case, I will continue to teach the units mentioned in the attached letter, collect and grade work digitally, post grades on Q from time to time, and then compare the accumulated grade through 4th quarter to the 3rd quarter grades. Essentially, the student's final grade will either be the same or better than the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter grade because of the quality of their work, or I will do as college professors do and "drop the lowest score" (so to speak) by excusing them from any assignments that caused their grades to drop below their 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter grade. The idea is to help students to continue to learn during the school closures so they are intellectually stimulated and prepared for their senior year without penalizing them for circumstances that are beyond their control in this new and unusual learning environment.

If you have any questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to contact me either through email or Remind (parents are invited to join my class Remind – please see the attached sheet).

Take care,

Heidi Sutton

Link to the Student Check-in Survey:

<https://bit.ly/3cerfAy>