

August 16th, 2020

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Welcome to the new school year. It is my pleasure to be your child's teacher. **The reason for this letter** is to inform you about this year's information, expectations and rules.

I **welcome all diverse groups**. This includes all ethnicities, educational backgrounds, and income levels. My classroom will not discriminate based on race, color, national origin, gender, sexual orientation, age, religion, ancestry, or any other classification. I will differentiate in my classroom based upon students' needs. If you are a parent or guardian of a student who does **not speak English**, I will work with our school's professionals and resources to best assist your child. Together we will help our students best succeed.

If you are a parent or guardian of a student with a disability, I will work with our school's special ed. department to meet your child's needs. I **welcome all students with disabilities** into my classroom! I will accommodate all of my students to the best of my ability. If you are a parent or guardian of a student who is **gifted**, I will work with your child to carefully follow and differentiate instruction to meet their needs. I welcome students who are gifted. I will be looking forward to working with your children.

All students are unique, therefore all learn differently. I will use **different techniques** to reach all of my students. This would include accommodations for everyone such as notes on the board, having material read to them, and anything else needed to level the playing field for students. I recognize the diversity and will do my best for all students to get what they need to succeed.

The **location** of my classroom is C120 in the main entrance hallway. Once you walk into the entrance, our classroom is at the end of that same hallway. If you are a parent of a child with dietary or medical issues, the restroom is located just outside our classroom. The nurse is located next to the main entrance.

We will use **technology** responsibly in my classroom. The students laptops for their use in the front of the classroom. They will use the laptops for research, presentations, and plenty of computer projects I plan on having them complete. We will all utilize **Google Classroom** whether in or outside of school.

The school's **curriculum** for Civics, and PA History is based on the State's Standards, and Common Core Standards. Our school has a team that puts together the curriculum following these standards while also preparing the students for the PSSA's. For our Civics class, we will cover the history of our government, the branches of government, state and local government, and how to be an effective citizen. Last, our PA History course will Pennsylvania's geography and history from the Pre-Columbian Era to the present. Course outlines will be posted on my teacher website online for a more detailed look at what we will cover over the school year.

Each class will start with a "Bell Ringer" which is a question on the board for the student to recall the lesson from the previous class, or even prior knowledge to form an opinion for our opening discussion. This keeps the students sharp, busy, and gives them the chance to communicate effectively and critically! The regular lesson will begin after this. Often, my classes will also complete "Current Events". Public schools must produce involved and well rounded citizens. Being informed is part of that goal.

I will assign **classwork/homework** for students but most will have time to complete it in class. I use classwork as a tool to give the students extra practice on our content. Classwork will be graded as FULL CREDIT, HALF CREDIT, or NO CREDIT. We will use a rubric to grade. Essentially, to receive full credit all/most work must be done and correct. If half of the work is completed/correct, it will result in half credit. To receive no credit, no work would be handed in or all/most of the work is incorrect. Homework is designed to benefit the students by helping them dig deeper into our subject matter. For more information on the benefits of homework, please checkout the "for parents" page on my **teacher website** The tests will be comprised of questions in the homework and the notes taken. I will collect all homework to grade it.

I will **grade** the students by their tests, quizzes, homework, notebook checks, and essays/projects. Tests will be worth 30%, quizzes 10%, homework 20%, participation (conduct, notebook check, etc) 15%, and essays/projects 25%. The tests will be given at the end of each Chapter. Quizzes will be given as needed (usually mid-Chapter). Homework will be given after most lessons. Notes should be taken everyday to be checked at the end of the marking period by using a checklist. Participation and positive behavior is required. Essays, powerpoints, and projects will be given out at the end of each Chapter.

If a **student is absent**, he/she may see me during school hours to get extra help and makeup work. It is their responsibility to make up what they have missed and to come ask for it. I have time to meet and help students during 3rd lunch and/or my 8th period Prep. Furthermore, the student should be able to see everything they have missed online on our **Google Classroom**.

The students will be taught the **rules** very carefully on the opening day. This will extend most likely for the week as well. I will take that time to ensure the students understand our expectations and rules to be on the same page. This will promote responsibility. When the students do not follow the rules, there will be consequences. These consequences will depend on the situation, and may result in the taking away of a privilege. When students follow the rules they will be rewarded. The “Student Handbook” rules and policies from Shamokin Area School District will be in place at all times. The starting rules are as follows:

- Students will come to class prepared to learn
- Students will act calmly, and quietly while in the classroom.
- When coming into the classroom, students get started with their work
- Students will act respectful to all classmates, teachers, and other staff.
- Students must raise their hand to speak in class.
- Students must be responsible with technology, food, and drinks.

The school nurse will handle all **medication**. Students may not have any medication in the classroom unless approved by the nurse or other appropriate professionals. All medical issues must be in IEP’s and service plans. I will work with the nurse to address any issues.

I will **record data** regularly on my computer about class, students, and incidents. I will use this data in making reports and referrals. This data will also be used to inform parents when needed. I will **communicate** with you by school phone during school hours. We can set up an appointment unless other arrangements are made. You can **contact me** by calling the school during our 3rd Lunch and/or my 8th Period Prep. If easier, you can contact me through email at anytime at jgrybos@indians.k12.pa.us. Email is typically much easier for both parties. Last, we can also video chat online and set up a conference if/when needed.

I have **high hopes** for this school year despite how unpredictable it will be. I am really looking forward to all of the classes and challenges involved. Please contact me with any questions or concerns on any matters addressed or not addressed.

Sincerely,

Jonathan Grybos

Jonathan Grybos
History Teacher
Shamokin Area School District
jgrybos@indians.k12.pa.us
(570) 648-5731 x3120
Indians.k12.pa.us/Page/3398