

The Classroom Guideline

American History

Mr. Stribe

Welcome to American History! Today marks the beginning of your journey through some of the most important events and eras of the past. We will explore numerous topics, encompassing different regions and cultures from around the country.

Before we can embark on our journey throughout time, we must discuss the guiding principles that will get us there. Like in most classrooms, these principles come to us in the form of classroom rules and expectations. By following the guidelines listed, we ensure that everyone involved in the classroom has the opportunity to achieve the best experience possible.

In 1762, Jean-Jacques Rousseau wrote *Du Contrat Social ou Principes du droit politique*, today more commonly known as *The Social Contract*. Rousseau's original purpose of the work was to theorize the best political relationship between the government and those being governed. Today, a social contract is more simply defined as:

“an agreement that unites individuals into a political society by a process of mutual consent, agreeing to abide by common rules and accept corresponding duties to protect themselves and one another from violence and other kinds of harm.”

While Rousseau was not writing with the classroom in mind, the ideas he talked about still apply. This document provides the standards required for all to follow in order to create a positive learning environment.

Expectations of the Student:

- 1) Be in the classroom by the time the bell rings (if you are not in the room, you are tardy). Once the bell sounds move promptly towards your seat and prepare to begin class if you have not done so already. Stay seated throughout class time, only getting up when it is absolutely necessary. Either wait until individual work time to move, or ask prior to getting up. Unnecessary movement around the classroom can be a distraction to both the teacher and other students.
- 2) Bring all required books and materials to every class. Without the proper materials, it can be difficult to participate or complete assigned tasks. If you do not come with the required materials, I may have to send you to get them (causing a tardy).

- 3) Plan to stay in the classroom the entire period. With a few exceptions, students will not leave once class begins. Please use the restroom between classes; only in emergency or illness situations will students be excused to the restroom.
- 4) Listen to and follow directions the first time. Raise your hand and wait to be called on if you wish to say something. This will ensure that everyone understands the task at hand, and has an equal chance to be heard.
- 5) Turn assignments in on time. Keep homework for other classes put away, unless there is free time at the end of class. Do your own work; I want to see what you're able to do, not what others can do for you.
- 6) Unless special privileges are given, food will not be allowed. Cell phones need to be off or on silent, and put away (best practice is to not have it accessible at all). Please take all hats off when entering the classroom, and headphones need to be removed. All these items can become an unnecessary distraction, so it is best if we avoid them.
- 7) Respect each other's personal space; keep your hands and feet to yourself. Use school appropriate language only. This will ensure that we have a safe and positive learning environment.
- 8) Follow and adhere to all classroom procedures as discussed in this class. This will reduce confusion and wasted time.
- 9) All MTPCSD/High School policies discussed in the handbook will also be enforced in addition to classroom expectations.

These rules are posted in the classroom as a constant reminder of what is expected. I do this believing that if you can see them, hopefully problems will not come up. With that said, if problems do arise, here is the list of consequences:

-You are considered tardy if not in the room when the bell rings (unless a pass is presented). I will record it in the system and class will proceed as planned.

-If homework is missing/not done on the due date, students must fill out the missing homework form and turn both in to the basket when complete. Late work is worth 50%, and is only accepted up to that unit exam.

-Cheating will not be tolerated and it is an automatic zero. Parents will be notified of the event. The MTPCSD academic integrity policy will be enforced.

-Any unauthorized distraction out when class begins will warrant a verbal warning for the first offense. After that, it becomes mine for the rest of the period. Persistent problems will be mine for the rest of the day or turned over to the office.

-Any offensive language or other inappropriate behavior will receive a warning on the first offense. Second offense requires meeting with me outside of class. The third offense will

result in another conference with me (to determine the proper punishment), as well as parent notification.

-These consequences are general guidelines and are subject to change pending the situation. Other consequences not listed may be instituted, but not without discussion prior to implementation.

Expectations of the Teacher:

- 1) I will grade and return assignments in a timely manner. (Usually within a week).
- 2) I will not assign "busy work." I will only assign things that are of value or have meaning.
- 3) I will tell you (or help you discover) the purpose for assigned tasks.
- 4) I will take your thoughts and suggestions into consideration when deciding classroom matters (when appropriate). Your input will be heard.
- 5) I will be fair.

If you feel that I am not holding up to my expectations, please feel free to come forward and remind me. However, this needs to be done respectfully, and not during regular class time.

Expectations of All:

- 1) Respect the thoughts and ideas of others.
- 2) Come to class prepared.
- 3) Always try your best.
- 4) Have a positive attitude.
- 5) Have fun and learn.

Again, welcome to American History. I am looking forward to our time together in the class!