



Cambridge-Gifted ELA 3 & US History

Mr. Moretta 625/Mrs. Castle 620

Welcome to Cambridge Language Arts 3 and Advanced US History. These classes will hopefully encourage you to use the intellect and creativity that you already possess and prepare you for **advanced academic** high school experience for which we will be registering by the 3rd term of this year. Your **grades** and **test scores** will determine that admission.

Course Descriptions:

US History: Primary content emphasis for this course is the study of American history from the Exploration and Colonization to Reconstruction following the Civil War. Students will be exposed to the historical, geographic, political, economic, and sociological events which influenced the development of the United States and the resulting impact on world history. In order to see the relationship between cause and effect in historical events, students should have the opportunity to explore those fundamental ideas and events which occurred after Reconstruction.

Language Arts: An integration of reading skills, literary terms, writing mechanics, speaking, presenting and listening skills, grammar, study skills, vocabulary, and research skills. The course will engage students to examine, interact with, and appreciate both classic and contemporary works of literature. This course is designed to meet both national and state standards.

Grading:

Formative Assignments: 30% Ex: notes, classwork, graphic organizers, short writings

Summative Assessments: 70% Ex: tests, quizzes, projects, essays

EXAM: Semester and final exam grades are added to semester and final grades by SJCS D at 10%

Formative Assessments: Formative assessments are during the learning process. The goal of formative assessment is to gain an understanding of what students know (and don't know) in order to make responsive changes in teaching and learning.

Summative Assessments: Summative assessments are formal assessments that take place at the end of the teaching and learning process. They are used to develop a complete description of student learning and achievement.

Tests/quizzes, projects, and writing assignments will make up most of your grade, while classwork, homework, and the district exams will constitute the rest. **Essay and short writing** is common. Each assignment carries a designated point value. These are averaged at the end of the term to calculate your grade. Parents can view grades at any time via the HAC system (access code available from the front office).

Participation is crucial. You won't learn much if you don't engage. Examples of good class participation include being active in class activities and discussions, taking an active role in group work, helping others understand, taking good notes, and bringing necessary materials to class.

Materials:

Loose-leaf notebook paper
Pencils/Pens (black or blue)
Highlighter
3-ring binder

Colored pencils or markers
Notebook reinforcements
USB drive

Homework: Cambridge/Gifted students should expect approximately **two hours** of total homework per night. Homework may be an extension of class work. What you do not finish in class may often be finished at home. Other homework assignments may be assigned specifically as homework. There are generally assigned **notes every week** with a quiz on that material weekly or bi-weekly. **Learning to make good notes** from this text will help you tremendously in the future!

Makeup Work: Students are responsible for getting makeup work when absent. Copy a friend's planner to find out what you missed, and see us if you have questions. You can also access the info on **Schoology** while you are at home. Frequently we can email you what we are doing in class. One class day is allowed for every day absent to make up your work. Late work will *generally* be accepted for **reduced credit**.

Field Trips: Field trips are not absences. If you miss class for a field trip, performance or other school-related activity, the class will likely continue to work while you are gone. It is your responsibility to get the work in advance from the teacher or the web. Assignments are to be completed as if you were in class. When you return to school, all work is due and you should be ready to take any scheduled quiz/test with the rest of the class. If you miss a quiz or test, you must make arrangements in advance to make it up or to take it early.

Plagiarism: It is expected that the work you do will be your own. Be very careful. In this age of Internet-connected computers, it is very easy to appropriate someone else's work as your own, even unintentionally. It is also very easy to catch students who make this mistake. In other words, if you found it on the Internet, so can I. If you present anyone else's work as your own, you will receive **no credit** for the assignment. If you are unsure, please ask **before** turning it in.

Behavior: All students are expected to follow the school and team rules as well as teacher instructions. **Respect** for others is crucial to what we do in this class. I promise that I will treat **you** fairly and respectfully, and I expect the same.

Please continue to signature page which is to be returned to Mr. Moretta...

Dear Parent,

Please read the class information letter carefully. If you have any concerns or questions, please do not hesitate to contact either of us. You may reach me by email at the addresses below. You may also reach us by calling the school at 574-8470. However, since we are in class all day, you will definitely get a response much more quickly by using **email**. Please sign below so that we know you have received this information. Thank you for being supportive and involved with your child. We look forward to working with you this year and will work hard to make it an enjoyable and enriching experience.

Mr. JC Moretta Mrs. Tempus Castle

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Cambridge Team **webpage:** www-mms.stjohns.k12.fl.us/vikings/

Student Name _____

Parent Signature _____