

**Ann Sobrato High School
Advanced Placement United States History Contract 2015 – 2016**

Dear Students and Parents/Guardians:

Welcome to the AP US History class for the 2015-2016 school year. This course is designed to prepare students for the Advanced Placement Exam which will be given in May 2016. This is a college level course that requires a significant commitment of both time and effort. It can be one of the deciding factors in the admissions process at many major universities. With this idea of commitment in mind, Sobrato High School asks that both you and your parent or guardian sign below, indicating that you understand your commitment to the following:

1. That you will dedicate time to study for this class every day during the school year, including weekend homework.
2. That all of the work you do for this class will be YOUR OWN, and that you will not take advantage of any opportunities you may have to copy work from someone else or download it from the internet, nor will you provide your work to other students to copy. ***If you are found to be in violation of this clause, you may be subject to removal from the course and potential further discipline by the district.***
3. That you are required to do **the summer assignments**, which will also require purchasing the book for one of the assignments. The book to be purchased is *American Colonies*, by Alan Taylor (ISBN# 978-0-14-200210-0), and it is available at Booksmart in Morgan Hill for about \$20. (Both Ms. Sage & Ms. Wallace have a few copies available for checking out, if you do not wish to purchase one.)

The instructions for all of the summer assignments, samples and handouts, and the first chapters of the text book are posted on Sobrato's website and at mswallaceonline.weebly.com.

4. It is our expectation that all students who enroll in the class will also register for and take the AP exam in May. (The cost of this exam was \$89 in 2015. Financial assistance is available for families in need who request it early.) Per MHUSD board policy, students who do not take the exam are not eligible for the elevated GPA on their transcripts.

There are several review books for the AP US History exam on the market. You do NOT need to purchase one. We will be issuing you one along with your textbook and primary source readers. However, if you would like to purchase your own book so that you can write in it, the one we recommend is *REA: AP US History All Access*, available at Booksmart.

Remember, while taking AP classes brings numerous rewards and advantages, there is a much higher level of effort and responsibility than in other courses. If you feel you cannot meet these conditions, please notify your counselor immediately.

Failure to complete the summer assignments before the first day of class will result in a loss of 180 points at the very beginning of the course. The daily workload is significant, and it is very difficult to complete this work on top of your regular nightly work. Summer assignments must be completed, so be sure to maximize your time and points by completing them on time!

Have a productive and enjoyable summer. We are looking forward to seeing you on the first day of school. If you have any questions over the summer, please email BOTH of us, and one of us will get back to you.

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