

Parents and Guardians,

I would like to welcome your son or daughter to Mr Anderson's core class for 8th grade. Ben York and I regularly switch students at least 3 times per week. We break up the expedition work and he also addresses global geography while I run the Word Study segment.

General Info

Our first Expedition focuses on Rights and culminates with a District required Constitution test in December. As this is a mid term election year we will be able to look at our government process, the media, bias and propaganda through the course of the positions, ads and speeches.

Much of the work we do in 8th is done electronically. The Google suite we use in Grass Valley is quite efficient for school and home- for students. The system has limitations for adult guardians. My recommendation is that parents have access to the student school logins as they give YOU access to all their assignments and background information. I leave that decision to you.

I do recommend that students do not rely on phones for completion of assignments. I know these have become a staple for social life- but they are generally lousy for quality schoolwork. A Chromebook, laptop, or workstation computer is highly recommended. At the very least a tablet with a keyboard is necessary as students can expect a fair amount of writing.

The Chromebooks we will issue at school are not for home use. If your family has one computer or multiple students, you may need to schedule work times for student homework. Ben York and I will make the effort to provide time for most work to be completed at school, but that is based on a general time frame needed by most students and on the assumption that they use their time well.

Beginning of the Year Needs

- Parent Leadership Group: We need two (2) parents from our class to work together, interfacing between the PLG, classroom parents, and me. The work of the PLG is critical to our program's success. Let us know if you are interested.

- Auto Insurance and District Sanctioned Fieldtrip Form: Each school year we update our database. It is one way to make sure our students are safe while being transported to and from fieldwork. **Please make sure to turn in your paper work ASAP, as we will need drivers for our backpacking trip and local fieldwork.** We will need all sorts of drivers early on. Be on the lookout for invitations for drivers from Sign Up Genius. Insurance forms are available on our school website.

Communication

Most of my communication will be through emails so it is very important that I have your best email for school communications. I will share a website this year to also supplement assignments with other links. Once we begin trips I will use texting for drivers.

The detailed Service information is available through their Google Classroom which should be available to them by the start of school. There are 5 terms and each

requires 5 hours of service. We have built in two make up terms as well. Service is a graduation requirement.

Important Upcoming Dates

I also want you to be aware of some dates for in the Fall semester you can work around. There are two full class trips and a one-week Intensive that might require advance scheduling on your part. Additionally there is the Fall Break to build into your schedule.

Most of you are aware that our Adventure component starts out quickly and requires your assistance. Both classes will be off on backpack trips on weeks three or four of the school year.

My class will be heading out **Tuesday, Sept 4 through Friday Sept 7th**. York's class will leave the week prior, Monday, Aug 27th- Thursday 30th. This trip has two days of actual backpacking and one day of exploring in the Grouse Ridge area. It would be wonderful to have at least three parent backpackers with us for that outing. We will spend some time hiking in advance but it is a very good idea to make sure your child has good shoes and the necessary clothes for this trip. We are very aware of the 'growing child' issue with buying clothes and footwear, but I encourage you to start gathering the necessary items for the backpack adventure. We provide packs, tents, sleeping bags, stoves, cookware, and pads to all who need them. If you have gear for backpacking we simply need to see it in advance so we can OK it. More info will come home soon about meals and a pack list.

The second trip is part of our expedition and takes us to the Mono Lake area for four days and nights. This is a car camping trip with school gear. There are two days that involve hiking- and if the snow line is high we will try and get up close to the Yosemite boundary on one of those days. We will need drivers and chaperones who are able to do moderately difficult climbs to be on this trip.

Mono Lake is for BOTH classes (separate camps) and is slated for Monday Sept 24th through Friday Sept 28th.

Fall Break comes on October 22nd through the 26th as you consider your ability to join us for the outings. We know taking time off is a challenge for many. We will post Sign Up Genius listings as soon as class lists are announced publicly.

INTENSIVE HEADS UP

The last trip to be aware of is an **Intensive**- which means it will depend on student choice to some degree and teacher choice for another. This year both Ben and I plan to go to take 16-18 8th grade students to Death Valley leaving on Sunday Nov 11th- Friday 16th. We will likely be able to make decisions on students shortly after the Mono Lake trip. For Death Valley we need 4WD or high clearance vehicles. A small trailer really helps with the gear.

I believe there will also be at least one backpack trip offered as well by at least two of the other staff members.

Regular Intensive dates are Monday Nov 12th- Friday 16th.

Enjoy the fair and the rest of your summer! See you all soon. I should be in my classroom on the afternoon of the 14th if you if would like to stop by Room 19.

Sincerely,
Todd Anderson