May 24, 2016

Dear Parent(s) and Student:

Welcome to Advanced Placement World History. We are looking forward to working with you in the coming school year.

The primary purpose of this letter is to inform you of the summer reading assignment. One of the greatest challenges in AP World History is the scope of the course. This summer assignment is designed to help give students an opportunity to begin working with the earliest unit of the course which will be somewhat familiar to them from their study of World History I. However, the scope of the AP World History course is thematic and comparative in nature so the approach to the material is substantially different than in the previous course.

The summer assignment this year is to complete the first three chapters from the textbook. The relevant pages from the text are on the school website along with the three chapter study guides. Students will also read a short article and answer the questions as well as label a world map with areas, regions, and geographical features to turn in. The assignment will be due early in the second week of school. This material forms half of the first unit of the AP World History curriculum. All study guides MUST be handwritten and in blue or black ink and be the product of the student’s own work. Note that the student will be responsible for all textbook material and vocabulary and will take a multiple choice quiz on each chapter of the text. Your text will be issued to you when school begins.

We are often asked about supplemental study guides. We highly recommend 5 Steps to a 5 by Peggy Martin published by McGraw-Hill. It is a simplified version of the course and includes maps as well as review questions and materials. You should purchase the newest edition for 2016-2017. It incorporates the recent changes to the APWH curriculum and test. Many students find this book approachable and very useful as a study aid. Other useful references are the second edition of Ethel Wood’s AP World History: An Essential Coursebook, AP World History Crash Course, Princeton Review, Kaplan and Barron’s (please note publication dates- they should be for the 2016-2017 school year). All publish AP World History exam preparation guides and include concise reviews, practice exams, and essay writing guides. We have no connections to the authors or publishers of any of these materials and they are entirely optional. Please note: Due to recent revisions from the College Board, some information in previous editions is no longer applicable to the current course.

We will be using the 4th edition of Traditions and Encounters by Bentley and Ziegler. Your basic homework assignments will be a comprehensive reading guide for each chapter; you will also be responsible for Blackboard assignments such as readings and responses, discussion board work, and essay preparation and writing.

Successful students in AP World History do not wait until the last minute to complete this summer work. Students who do it over time, in small manageable amounts, are more likely to do better in the course. Our summer assignment will be the equivalent of a test grade. If you have questions, you may contact us via email during the summer.

Sincerely,
Stephanie Shimp
sashimp@fcps.edu
Leigh Shipman
mlshipman@fcps.edu
John Thorson
JEThorson@fcps.edu