August 29th, 2012

Dear Parent/Guardian,

On behalf of the Modern World History teachers at Conard High School, welcome to the 2012-2013 school year. We would like to take this opportunity to introduce the Modern World course and grading policies.

The Modern World History teachers have reflected on grading practices in an effort to ensure that academic grades accurately reflect the content knowledge and social studies skills of each student. All Modern World History teachers will be collaboratively utilizing the same grading approach.

The majority of your student’s classroom assessments will be graded based on a four-point rubric, as shown below:

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Exemplary (4)** | **Proficient (3)** | **Approaching (2)** | **Does not meet standard (1)** |
| Students perform all components at a superior level beyond what is required for proficiency.  Exemplary work implies that the student has exceeded expectations and has presented work worthy of showcasing and emulating.  Student work is characterized by an in-depth understanding of subject-area content, and demonstrates excellence in essential social studies skills. | Students perform all components at a consistent level and demonstrate competency.  Proficient work implies that the student has met the expectations of the assignment and its corresponding standards.  Student work is characterized by a solid understanding of subject-area content, and demonstrates proficiency in essential social studies skills. | Students performing at this level have not demonstrated proficiency in all components.  Approaching implies that the student is working towards meeting assignment expectations and corresponding standards.  Student work is characterized by a general understanding of subject-area content, and demonstrates basic essential social studies skills. | Students performing at this level have not met or demonstrated proficiency of the minimum standards for completion of the assignment.  Student work is characterized by insufficient understanding of subject-area content, and demonstrates deficiencies in social studies skills. |

Although some assessments will be graded on a more traditional grading scale (A-F, 100-0%), the new policy will better represent each student’s patterns of understanding and development of skills over time. This in turn will provide the parent/guardian, the student and the teacher better insight into each student’s individual progress and needs.

The new policy will also fit well with our online grading system, PowerSchool, which can be accessed by parents/guardians and students in an effort to manage progress and achievement.

Please contact your student’s Modern World History teacher if you have any questions. Thank you in advance for the support you will provide your student this academic school year.

Sincerely,

The Conard Modern World History Team

Jonah Hill, Jason Lussier, Keara O’Leary, Alan Patterson, Nicole Vibert

\*\*\*(DO NOT DETACH - Please return this letter signed no later than September 3, 2013. Your student will receive a copy to retain in their notebook)\*\*\*

I have read the course introduction and expectations. I understand that any questions may be directed to the teacher using the contact information provided.

Parent/Guardian: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

(printed name) (signed name)

Student: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

(printed name) (signed name)