**Welcome to Mrs. Morgan's Texas History Classroom!!!**

Welcome to the 2018-2019 school year!  My name is Mrs. Morgan and I am excited to be your Texas History teacher.  During this year, we will learn about the geography, people, issues, laws and events of Texas.  We will also have the opportunity to learn more about each other and ourselves, since history is the study of people.

 ***Topics we will cover include:***

* Cultures of Texas
* Geography and Regions of Texas
* Texas Government and Economy
* Native Americans
* Exploration and Age of Missions
* Colonization
* Revolution and Republic
* Statehood of Texas
* Civil War in Texas
* Ranching Industries
* Discovery of Oil and the Oil Boom
* The Great Depression and the Dust Bowl
* World War I and World War II - the role Texas played

**Essential Supplies for Class**

In the 7th grade, you will share one binder between all of your class.  Each class will have designated dividers within the binder.  You must have 2 dividers for my class – Graded Papers and Notes/Reviews. You will also need to have plenty of loose-leaf notebook paper in your binder for all of your classes and you are expected to bring a pencil, blue or black ink pen and a red pen to class daily. You will need these writing utensils to complete your assignments in class.

I have a class set of highlighters, pencil sharpeners, scissors, map pencils, markers and glue sticks in my classroom to use during school.  If a student needs to borrow any of these items to complete an assignment at home, please stop by my room before or after school.

Your fully charged school-issued iPad is also a important tool to bring with you to class everyday. Most classes will utilize the ipad throughout class so it is essential you bring it to class everyday.

**Grading Procedures:**

* Tests, writing assignments, and projects count 40%
* Quizzes, Skillbuilder Activities, End of Chapter Activities, and Current Events count 35%
* Daily work/homework counts 25%

Grades are updated often in Skyward.  Students and Parents should sign up for an account in Skyward to monitor the grades in Texas History.

**Late Work/Absent Work:**

If you do not have an assignment finished on the day it is due, you will be given one opportunity to turn the assignment in late. If you turn it in one day late, the highest you can make will be a 70.  If you turn it in 2 days late, the highest you can make will be a 50.  It will not be accepted after 2 days late.

If you are absent the day an assignment is due, it is your responsibility to turn in that assignment the day you return to history class.  Failure to do so will cause result in it being late.

If you are absent the day an assignment is given, it is your responsibility to see me about the work you missed while you were absent.  You have as many days as you were absent to make up the assignment.  Please plan on picking up absent work during **tutorials** when you return to school.

**Major Assignment Corrections:**

In accordance with school policy, a student who scores below a 70 on a test or project will be allowed to retake the test or make corrections to the project.

However, the student must come in for tutorials at least once before he or she can retake the test or make corrections to the major grade assignment.  Students will have one week after the major assignment grade has been posted in Skyward to retake a test or make corrections.  The assignment must be turned in on time in order to have the opportunity to make corrections to raise the major grade assignment.

Any student who needs help or doesn't understand the information being assessed may come to tutorials on scheduled tutorial days between 8:25- 8:50 a.m. or after school from 4:15 to 4:45 p.m.

**Tutorials:**

I will have morning tutorials from 8:25 a.m. to 8:50 a.m. on Wednesdays and Fridays. I will also have afternoon tutorials on Tuesday and Thursday afternoons from 4:15 p.m. to 4:45 p.m. I am available by appointment on Mondays. On occasion, I will have school-required activities (such as meetings, detentions, etc.) that might prevent me from having tutorials on a given day.

**No Name Papers:**

Every year I have students who fail to put their names on the papers they turn in to me.  It is the student’s responsibility to put their name, class period and date on every assignment. Any papers turned in with no names on them will be placed in the No Name Tray in my classroom.  It is the student’s responsibility to notice they have a missing grade in Skyward and to consult me about it prior to looking in the No Name Tray for their missing assignment.

**Current Events:**

Throughout the year, we will be keeping up on important current events in class. We will watch a 10 minute student-based news program from CNN a couple of times a week. Several times a year, students will be required to complete a current-events report.

**Classroom Discipline:**

Students are expected to follow all classroom and school rules or be held accountable for their actions at Lamar Middle School. Here are the rules for my classroom.

1. Come to class prepared - Be in your seat with appropriate supplies when class begins.  Each student is expected get out their homework and other necessary supplies and start working on their warm up immediately upon entering the classroom.   Backpacks need to place under their desk or on the back of their chair. Phones should be in your backpack.

2. Be polite to others –You are expected to be polite and respectful to your teacher and your classmates. Rude or disrespectful comments will not be tolerated. You need to wait your turn to talk during class discussions so raise your hand before speaking. Please do ***not*** get up while the lesson is being taught. **Blurting out during class is not allowed and will result in disciplinary actions.**

3. Keep your hands to yourself - No horseplay in class. Do not take items that ***do not*** belong to you and do not touch, hit or kick other students.

4. Dream big and try new things – You are expected to take risks in your learning and to set forth goals to achieve in life. We want to see you become a lifelong learner and successful in your dreams!

5. Keep your area clean – all paper and other trash will be picked up before being dismissed from class.

6. Food and drinks are **not** allowed in the classroom or hallways. ***Water is the only exception to the rule***. You may bring water to class but it must be in its “original” water bottle or a clear water bottle.

7. The teacher will dismiss you  - not a bell or clock! You need to be in your sitting quietly in your seat with your area cleaned before I will dismiss the class.

8. Follow the school technology policy and Mrs. Morgan’s classroom policy regarding technology usage.

**Discipline Consequences:**

Lamar Middle School teachers use a behavior management plan to foster a safe and successful learning environment for all students. Warnings are always given before an official infraction is issued to students. The first infraction will result in an official warning. The second infraction will result in a classroom referral which means parents will be contacted and a detention will be assigned. The third infraction will result in an office referral and parents will be contacted. A consequence will be assigned to the student by the assistant principals on the third infraction. Each infraction beyond the 3rd infraction will also be considered an office referral and will be dealt with through the assistant principals.

Please note, there are some behaviors that will result in automatic office referrals due to their serious nature.

**Classroom Technology Policy:**

1.   All Technological devices are to be placed **face down** on top of your desk until I have given you permission to use them. They are to stay in this “power down” mode until I give you instructions on using them in class.

2. You are NOT allowed to listen to music or play games or watch tv shows/videos (such as netflix) during class unless I give you permission. There will be consequences if you fail to follow this technology rule.

3.  Students have to stay on task when we are using technology in class.  You are not allowed to go to websites or apps that the classroom is not currently using during class that day.

4.  Social media apps - texting, instagram, facebook, etc. are NEVER allowed in my classroom.

5.  Taking pictures or videos in my classroom is **prohibited** unless I give you permission to do so in order to complete an assignment that will only be viewed in the classroom environment. Students are prohibited from uploading any video assignment to any social media site for ***personal use***.  Remember, not every parent wants images of their child posted on social media sites.

**Technology Consequences:**

A warning will be given the 1st time a problem occurs in class. If the student continues to abuse the technology rules in my classroom, the student might be given a behavior infraction or could have their technology use in class limited or lose total privilege.  Parents will be notified if the student continually violates my classroom technology policy.

**Class Technology and Website**:

All LISD teachers will be using a new program called Canvas. Lesson plans will be posted on the Canvas Calendar and assignments will be sent out to students in Canvas. This is completely new to everyone – students, parents and teachers. It will take a couple of weeks to roll out this new system in our classrooms.

Students will also access their textbook at home online using the LISD Learning Hub to find the McGraw Hill textbook link. I ask the students to download these apps on their iPads: Google Drive, Google Docs, Google Slides, Pic Collage. Skyward, a QR Code Reader, Student Canvas, Skitch and Quizlet (or a similar flash card app).

**Contact Information/School Email:**

Please feel free to give me a call or send me an email if you have any concerns or issues you would like to address with me.  My email address is Morgan-simonekk@lisd.net and my classroom phone number is 972-350-2047.