



September 1, 2021

Dear Parents, Guardians, and Families,

Welcome to the start of a new school year! I am looking forward to a more traditional school year, keeping some of the lessons we learned from the pandemic with us. Please feel free to contact me anytime during the year to voice any concerns or questions you may have. You can reach me by email or by calling or texting my Google Voice number. I can't promise I will respond immediately, but I will try. This number can be texted for student or family questions, but note that I will probably not respond after 5:00 pm. Email is almost always the most effective method for quick communication since I am checking that most frequently during the day.

**Contact Information:**

**Phone: 617-910-0247**

**Email: [regerpeckham@bostonpublicschools.org](mailto:regerpeckham@bostonpublicschools.org)**

**About Me:**

This is my fourth year at the Perry. I have been teaching history and English for the past 8 years in both Boston and in Oakland, CA at the high school and middle school level. I am originally from Maine, but was ready to come to the city for college. I attended Boston University and got my degrees in Political Science and Education, and attended Lesley University for my masters in Language and Literacy. My husband, son, and I live in Hyde Park.

**Class Units (may change given student skills/strengths - priority units are highlighted!):**

<b>Social Studies</b> <b>Key/Essential Questions:</b> How do societies form? How do ideas and technology spread across regions and the world? What are the contributions of different societies?	<b>ELA</b> <b>Key/Essential Questions:</b> How do individuals create change? What qualities make individuals leaders who create movements? How do movements sustain change?
Studying Complex Societies Past and Present	Read: The Lightning Thief - Rick Riordan Write: Myths
Human Origins - Neolithic and Paleolithic Era	
Western Asia, the Middle East, and Northern Africa	Read: The Boy Who Harnessed the Wind - William Kamkwamba and Bryan Mealer Write: Informational Essay on a design problem
Sub-Saharan Africa	Read: Two Roads - Joseph Bruchac Write: Argumentative Persuasive Essays
South America, the Caribbean, and South America	Read: Hidden Figures - Margot Lee Shetterly Write: Research Essays

**Materials for ELA and History:**

- 2 Lined notebooks (composition style preferred, but not required!)
- Pens/Pencils
- Independent Reading Book
- Coloring tools (thin markers, crayons, colored pencils)

**Grading:**

Grade in my class are designed to reflect two things:

1. Effort
2. Student progress towards grade level skills

Both elements are essential in success and I strive to ensure that those two elements are balanced in the grading of my class. Some assignments will be graded on effort (including participation, attendance, completion, etc.) and others will be graded on student growth and mastery of grade-level skills in reading and writing.

To ensure that students can get support on assignments if they struggle, and to build their personal responsibility skills, students will have the opportunity to make up assignments for a higher grade or complete missing work within 1 week after it has been returned. However, I do not accept missing work after that except in specific circumstances (proactive student communication is ALWAYS welcome).

Finally, in order for students to take action and show their responsibility, they need feedback from me. Therefore, work will be returned weekly and students will get weekly progress reports. Students may fix errors and re-submit by Friday of the next week for a new grade. Please ask your student to see their progress reports or Google Classroom grades. As upper elementary and middle school students, they should know their grades and be able to articulate what they need to do to improve their grades. **Please contact me at any point if you are unsure about your student's progress and if you/your student is not receiving progress reports!**

**Student Tools:**

Most classroom assignments are posted on Google Classroom, and grades will be entered into ASPEN. Google Classroom is organized by week and assignments are numbered for clarity. Those week and assignment numbers will match ASPEN. My grades are updated weekly (with a few exceptions!), so please feel free to check and help your students check.