

October 2015



High School Social Studies Family Newsletter

Curriculum News from our Classes

Global History and Geography I

In 9th Grade Global History and Geography, we are finishing up the end of the first unit on Ancient River Valley Civilizations. In the upcoming weeks, we will be learning about Classical Civilizations including early China, India, Greece, and Rome. As it is the beginning of high school historical study for students, it is very important that they stay organized and remain up to date with their assignments.

10th Grade Global History and Geography

10th Grade classes are

finishing up our first instructional unit on the Scientific Revolution and the Enlightenment in Europe. Classwork and homework assignments have focused on the changes in thinking that took place during these periods, the contributions of specific writers and scientists, and the impact that these changes had on Europe.

During this unit, students have been working with a variety of primary sources, including but not limited to the writings of Nicholas Copernicus, Sir Francis Bacon, William Harvey, Jean

-Jacques Rousseau & Voltaire.

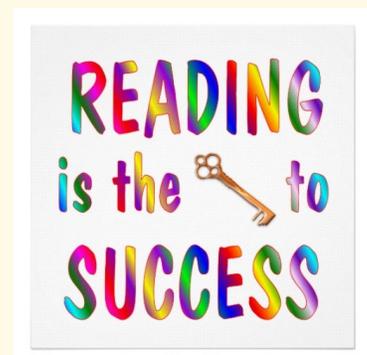
For one assignment, students wrote a mock editorial comparing the ideas of John Locke and Thomas Hobbes. Another assignment required students to analyze two contrasting Enlightenment-era views of the role of women in society. Honors students considered the question "Was the Scientific Revolution Revolutionary?", using a variety of sources to support their argumentative writing. Students will complete two culminating assessments for this unit -- one multiple choice test and one document-based essay.

IMPORTANT DATES

Opening Day Packets Due!

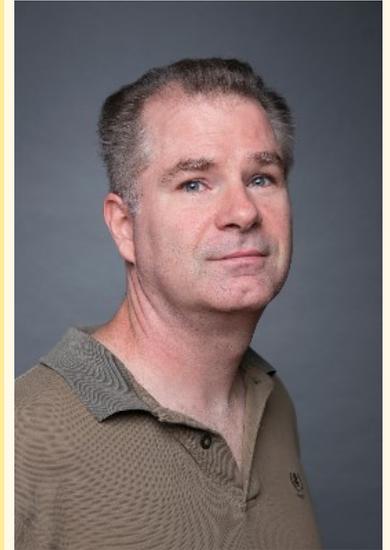
PSAT Day for all 11th Graders- October 14th- Periods 1-5

College Fair- October 14, RKA Gym, 6:30-8:00 PM



TEACHER SPOTLIGHT

Mr. Flanagan has been working at RKA for the past 10 years. He teaches Participation in Government and Economics to 12th grade students. Mr. Flanagan graduated with a Bachelors degree in history from Lehman College in 1995. He also has a Masters degree from Lehman and a Doctorate in Education from Columbia Teachers College. Besides being a teacher of government and economics for the RKA social studies department, Mr. Flanagan is a national education activist and organizer. He speaks out in print, radio and television against government abuse of civil rights. His classes engage students in real world issues as well as the New York State curriculum. His students actively participate in group projects, discussions and write position papers on controversial real world issues. Class discussions often revolve around the current events affecting our country. Besides being an experienced and dedicated teacher, Mr. Flanagan has been voted "Funniest Teacher" for the past three years in the senior yearbook. His daughter is a 6th grade student here at RKA. When interviewed for this article Mr. Flanagan says: "I love RKA, and am very proud to work here. I grew up in the Riverdale Kingsbridge community and have many friends in the neighborhood whose children now attend this school. I want to help make RKA the best school in the city, I will do my best to send the seniors of RKA of to college with the skills and knowledge they need to succeed in today's world".



Curriculum News (continued)

As the 2nd marking period approaches, please be on the lookout for the Fall Term Research project. This will be a long-term research and writing topic

that students will complete individually. Also remember that students will be taking the New York State Regents' Exam in Global

History and Geography in June 2016. rkasforza.weebly.com

US History

Students in Mr. Cushing's U.S. History classes are studying the development of the British North American colonies. We are paying particular attention to the role that religion played in shaping the identity of the

Reach us any time via Jupiter Grades or via the email addresses posted @RKA141.org

Curriculum News (continued)

different colonies, and to the varied ways in which European colonists responded to the Native Americans.

Our work will culminate in a DBQ - an essay based on primary source documents - and we will also be having our first multiple-choice test at the end of the unit. Students should have their binders prepared (3 sections for U.S. History, as outlined in the syllabus), as we will have a binder check that will account for a portion of the first marking period grade.

Participation in Government

This is a one semester course that covers functions of government, civics and current events. This month we will complete Unit 1 in our text books. We will write both an argumentative essay and a persuasive essay on forms of government. We will continue studying various types of governmental institutions, discuss and debate current controversial issues and perform political speeches. We will also have our first full period exam. After watching a documentary, the class will write a paper which will discuss the influence of special interest groups, lobbying and propaganda on American politics and government. We will begin study of the Constitution, the Bill of Rights and important Supreme Court decisions. Students will read and discuss several articles of current events that directly affect their lives and futures, including the student loan crisis.

