

September 6, 2017

Dear Advanced Placement United States History Student and Parent/Guardian:

Advanced Placement (AP) classes have become increasingly popular in public high schools. Some students take the class, and then the AP test, to earn college credit. Other students take AP classes to boost their academic resumes. Some students take them simply for the academic challenge.

AP classes are challenging. Students must master an enormous volume of factual material over the course of the year; write college-level essays; and be able to analyze and synthesize primary and other sources insightfully. (Please review the syllabus for this course.) In addition, students must maintain a passing grade to remain in the class for the full school year. **(Please note: If you fail first semester, you will be removed from the class and transferred to a junior US History class.)** The AP test itself is over three hours long and consists of a combination of multiple choice and essay questions. *Please consider the demands of AP US History before you finalize your decision to join the class.*

Whatever the score on the AP test, I promise that students and I will work hard so that they will learn how to write at a college level, analyze major historical events, identify common themes between different time periods, and make sense of primary and secondary sources.

Finally, students and parents should be aware that there is a fee for taking the AP test. Last year's test cost \$92. The AP fee for this coming year will be **approximately \$94**. All students who take the class will be expected to take the test on May 11, 2018.

Both the student and parent or guardian should sign and return this letter. If you have questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me. I can be reached via e-mail at kevin.wimsett@tumwater.k12.wa.us or by phone at (360) 709-7890.

Thank you for your interest in the AP program at Black Hills High School. I look forward to a great year!

Sincerely,

Kevin Wimsett
Social Studies Teacher
Black Hills High School

I have read this letter and reviewed the syllabus for AP US History. I understand that this course is demanding and time consuming. I am ready to accept this exciting challenge.

(student name printed—please write so I can read your name)

(signature of student)

(signature of parent/guardian)