

6-01-09

Dear Parent,

It is my sincere pleasure to introduce myself and share with you information about your son's/daughter's decision to take Advanced Placement US History next school year. My name is Tabb Pearson and I have been a teacher in Va. Beach for 23 years. I am the Social Studies Department Chairman and have taught this course for fifteen years. In addition, I served as a Faculty Consultant (AP Exam Reader) for nine years.

AP US History is a rigorous, college-level course that gives the students the opportunity to earn college credits based upon their score on the end of the year nationwide exam (given May 7, 2010). By passing this exam, students can save hundreds of dollars of college tuition. One of my main goals in the course is to share my own personal passion for US History. It is my hope that students will "enjoy" history and not just see it as a bunch of dates and dead people. It is also my job to prepare the students to take the examination in May. I believe that my experience teaching the class and grading the AP Exam essays has given me the ability to share knowledge with the students that will enable them to succeed on the exam and in the course.

This course is probably unlike any course your son/daughter has taken in school. The demands upon their time are extensive. They will need to be self-motivated and self-disciplined. There is a great deal of reading and writing involved which is why I recommend a strong English background before entering the class. Students who have been successful are those who review material regularly and don't wait until spring to prepare for the AP Exam. We will engage in a variety of activities in class...discussion, some lecture, projects, group work, etc. It is my hope that all of the students will be successful and your help will be crucial. Ask questions about what they are studying and what they need to be reading, and please contact me if you have any questions or concerns during the school year (WT.Pearson@VBSchools.com). Your encouragement and support will be a vital component toward making this year a rewarding experience for your son/daughter. Ensuring that they have a quiet place to read and study, free from distractions, will aid them greatly. Please make sure that the Summer Assignment is completed before the start of the school year in September.

Please sign this letter below and have your son/daughter return it to me on the first day of school in September. I will give it back to them and have them return it to you for future reference. I sincerely look forward to the opportunity to work with your son/daughter and anticipate a very successful junior year for each of them.

Sincerely,

W. Tabb Pearson, Department Chair, AP US History Teacher
Salem High School
1993 Sun Devil Drive
Va. Beach, Va. 23464
(757)648-5650 (Voice Mail 77152) WT.Pearson@VBSchools.com

"Salem High School is dedicated to serving the entire community by encouraging enrollment of all students who demonstrate a willingness to rise to the challenge of rigorous, college-level Advanced Placement coursework."

I have read this letter and am aware of the expectations of my son/daughter in AP US History.

(Parent Signature)

(Student's Name-printed)

