August 7, 2017 

Dear O’Brien Lions, Parents, and Guardians:

 My name is Ms. Gaither and I am your Social Studies educator! I am excited to be a part of your educational experience and am looking forward to working with you and your parents/guardians throughout the school year.

 I welcome your parents/guardians to visit our classroom; however they will need to check-in at the front office first. My contact information is at the bottom of this letter; each method will work for contacting me as well as stopping in the office and leaving a note in my mailbox. I will respond to any method as soon as possible to set up a time to meet which best meets our schedules.

**Grading Breakdown (Please review and initial each point with your initials and your parent/guardian initials)**

\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_ 60% assessments: this includes quizzes, image analysis, BMA’s, DBQ’s Essays, and Unit project

\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_ 30% class work: this includes participation in classroom discussions, Interactive Notebook upkeep/student written response, handouts, and other in class activities.

\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_ 10% Homework: supplemental activities to deepen student understanding, will not cover concepts students have not engaged in during classroom instruction.

\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_ Behavior/Citizenship: You will receive 0-5points every Friday. These points are based upon your behavior in class for the week. Engaging in the documents, discussions, and group work will help you earn the full 5 pts. Negativity or aggressive behavior will result in eliminating or minimizing your weekly behavior pts.

\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_ Work Ethic: You will receive 0-5 pts every Friday. These points are based upon your ability to write down the daily agenda for my class, your preparedness for class, such as bringing agenda, paper, pencils and highlighters to class, and minimizing your excuses for late work or poor choices, but rather owning it your mistakes and growing as a productive, contributing, and thoughtful member of our classroom.

**Classroom Expectations (Please review and initial each point with your initials and your parent/guardian initials)**

\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_ WE will use “accountable talk” and respectful language in our classroom.

\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_ WE will come prepared to class each day with a pencil, pen, agenda, paper, and binder so we can maximize our learning.

\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_ WE will keep our classroom clean, orderly, and considerately use all materials.

\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_ WE will *each* engage in classroom activities and be accountable for our choices.

\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_ WE are a TEAM; we will support our fellow teammates.

**Late Work Policy and Test Retakes** **(Please review and initial each bullet with your initials and your parent/guardian initials)**

For late work on unexcused and excused absences, please review the district policy.

\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_ **Test Retake**: You are able to retake tests if you receive a failing score. You will need to arrange a time during lunch, with me, to schedule a makeup. Test retakes are open for 1 week.

**Supplies Needed**

* **Agenda** (One is included in your student package you purchase at the beginning of the year. If you lose this one, you will need to purchase your own or contact the counseling center if you need financial assistance in purchasing a new one.)
* **Composition book**, please no spiral bound notebooks. The students will store these in classroom bins and the spiral notebooks tend to catch on each other and have ruined the student notebooks. **NEEDED by August 8, 2016 for in class set up! ☺**
* **Loose notebook paper**
* **Highlighters: Green, Yellow, and Pink**
* **Pencil or Pen** (I prefer pencils because my mistakes can be erased as I work towards my end goal.)
* **Persistence** (We are all imperfect, but we can all work to improve ourselves and become the most successful us. Success will look different person to person, but with persistence, success is guaranteed!)

If you have any questions, comments, or concerns, please feel free to contact me. I am looking forward to an exciting year!



Sincerely,

Hannah Gaither

(775) 677-5420, school’s main line

hgaither@washoeschools.net

---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

I have read our classroom agreement with my parent/guardian, and we both understand my responsibility in my education and Ms. Gaither’s expectations.

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Printed Name Student Printed Name

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Signature Student Signature