

J.B. Murlin
2007-2008

Gifted World Geography 9th
Gifted Free Enterprise 10th
Gifted American History 11th
AP United States History

Dear Parents and Students:

This is my 16th teaching at Karr – and I was teaching many years before that in other schools. I graduated from Newcomb College of Tulane University with a BA majoring in American history and a minor in British history, and I earned a masters in education from UNO. I am certified to teach secondary social studies, elementary grades, and gifted classes. During the summer while you were relaxing from all the rigors of academic life, I attended various trainings, conferences, and a seminar at Stanford University in California – to be able to share with you the latest strategies, information, and technology – to make you better prepared and qualified for a life-time of learning.

Brief Overview of World Geography

1 st Quarter	Overview of physical and human geography North America	
2 nd Quarter	South America	
		1 st Semester Exam
3 rd Quarter	Western Europe Eastern Europe Africa	
4 th Quarter	Middle East (Southwest Asia) Southern and Eastern Asia Australia Antarctica	
		2 nd Semester Exam

Projects: various short research topics on assigned subjects
Research and Power Point Presentation or Brochure on a Trip to Country

Brief Overview of Free Enterprise

January 7 - February 15	Fundamental Economic Concepts
February 18 – April 4	Microeconomic Concepts
April 7 – 18	Macroeconomic Concepts
April 21 – May 2	International Economic Concepts

Projects: Economic Portfolio Including Career Planning
Projection Budget

Brief Overview of American History

1 st Semester	Reconstruction to World War I
2 nd Semester	World War I to the Present GEE Review

Project: Research and Power Point Presentation on a decade of the 20th Century

Brief Overview Of AP United States History

1 st Semester	Pre-Columbian Period to the Civil War
2 nd Semester	Reconstruction to the Present GEE Review

AP United States History National Exam – Friday May 9, 2008 (8:00 a.m.- 11:00 a.m.) or research project

2 nd Offense	F on assignment In-school counseling Removal from elected office Unable to represent school at Outside functions	F on assignment Parent-teacher conference
3 rd Offense	F on assignment Saturday School Recommendation for non-retention	F on assignment In-school counseling Removal from elected office Unable to represent school at Outside functions

After the 3rd offense, the school's policy of suspension and non-retention will be followed.

❖ **Class Rules**

1. Students are to be to class on time. Seated with supplies out, ready to begin at the tardy bell.
2. The restroom pass is only given at the very beginning of class. The pass is not given during 4th period – the class following lunch.
3. Paper, etc. is thrown away after the closing activity. Never during class!
4. Cell phones are turned off and out of sight.
5. No food or drink in class. NO GUM
6. Never think about staying in another teacher's class to finish a test or for any other purpose – this is my class time and I am not sharing.
7. In class discussions and debates, respect the rights of other students and of their opinions. Have a positive attitude about learning – look for solutions instead of continuing the problem.

❖ **General Expectations of Study Habits**

1. Students will have homework most nights.
2. Students who do not have homework, will be assigned a detention. If after a student continuously does not have homework, the parent will be contacted and a plan will be developed to insure that he student learns how to study and do written assignments. Tests will be announced on the assignment sheet. Students may stay for tutoring or group study sessions before any major test.
3. Research papers must be typed. Students who need to use the internet or type their papers on a computer, may stay after school. I will be here on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays.

❖ **Conferences**

Parents are encouraged to attend **Open House**, tentatively set for Wednesday, September 5 at 7:00 PM and report card conferences. Parents are encouraged to have individual conferences to monitor the progress of their child. To schedule a conference call the office at 398-7115. I can meet with parents before and after school until about 5:00 PM.

