

7SS Newsletter – 3.15.21

Hello 7th Grade Families,

American History

The students are beginning their study of "The Road to Civil War." Slavery was a major cause of the worsening division between the North and South in the period before the Civil War. The struggle between the North and South turned more hostile, and talk grew of separation and civil war. "If slavery is not wrong, nothing is wrong," Abraham Lincoln wrote in a letter to A.G. Hodges in 1864. By studying this era of our history, we can better understand the state of racial relations today and develop ways for improving them.

Students will begin by investigating the causes of the Civil War. They will analyze four major political decisions - the Missouri Compromise, the Compromise of 1850, the Kansas-Nebraska Act, and the Dred Scott Case - to gain a better understanding of how these conflicts eventually turned violent and led to secession by the South. They will then discuss the Fugitive-Slave Act and the role of slavery in the progression towards war.

Next, students will discuss the politics of the day by looking at the Lincoln-Douglas debates and the presidential election of 1860. They will compare and contrast the major candidates for president and understand how Lincoln's election caused the South to declare independence from the United States. We will also examine the attack on Fort Sumter and the advantages and disadvantages of each side as the war began. Finally, students will debate whether the Civil War was inevitable, or if it could have been avoided.

Geography

The students have also transitioned from their Personal Finance Unit on Fridays to their Geography Unit for the remainder of the school year. Last week, we reviewed basic map concepts and skills. The students have a quiz on that information this Thursday. Throughout the unit, we will discuss geography vocabulary and physiographic features. We will also take a look at the Five Themes of Geography. The students joined a new Geography Google Classroom on Friday where they will be able to find all materials and assignments.

Please let me know if you have any questions. And if I don't see you I hope you have a wonderful Spring Break!

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Mrs. Esquivel