



RIVER RIDGE MIDDLE SCHOOL

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Advanced Social Studies Summer Course Work

The following information is for students who will be enrolling in Advanced US History or Civics for the upcoming 2018-2019 school year.

Summer expectations:

1. **US geography:** Learn the states and capitals as well as their location.
 - a. Use the website, <http://www.sheppardsoftware.com/Geography.htm> to practice the states and capital placement. It is in game format.

2. **National History Day Project**
 - a. All Advanced Civics and US History students are required to complete a National History Day research project. In preparation for this, around mid July, students should read through the NHD website (<https://www.nhd.org/students>) Although the website will not be updated with the next topic until July, the information about the project and the rules will be the same. The final project which is worked on for the most part outside of the classroom is due in January.
 - b. The upcoming year's theme is **Triumph and Tragedy**. <https://www.nhd.org/how-enter-contest> Based on the theme, students should generate a list of at least **three topics** they would be interested in researching. The themes are chosen to be broad enough to encourage investigation of topics ranging from local history to world history, and from ancient time to the recent past. To understand the historical importance of your topic you need to ask questions about time, place and context; cause and effect; change over time; and impact and significance. You must consider not only when and where events happened, but also why they occurred and what factors contributed to their development.
 - c. Students should also be thinking about which type of medium (**website, exhibit, paper, performance or documentary**) they would like to present their research in.

The expectation is that students will have completed the research handout with a list of at least three topics they would be interested in possibly researching for this project. They will have the opportunity to work with others on the project. This activity will give them a head start on brainstorming.