

QUESTIONABLE ONLINE GRADE PROCEDURE

AP WORLD HISTORY – MRS. OSBORN

- The GISD Grade Book [SKYWARD] offers INTERNET ONLINE ACCESS for parents/guardians/students. More information is available at <http://www.garlandisd.net>. Please be aware that this software is intended for monitoring purposes only. Please follow the **REQUIRED** procedure listed below if you see a questionable grade:

- A) Ask your child to explain the grade.
- B) If the grade in question is not as high as it has been in the past, please be aware that AP World History is the **ONLY** college-level course at RHS in 10th grade. It would be a disservice to the students to continue grading their work on a lower level. Evaluations will continue to become more stringent throughout the course, but please realize that more weight is given to grades received in AP courses in terms of GPA (grade point average). (Example: a B in an honors course counts as an A in a regular course; detailed GPA criteria are listed in the front of the GISD Course Handbook).
- C) If the response is, “I turned it in already” or “I know I made a better grade than that,” tell your child to come to me **with** the graded paper **BEFORE/AFTER school** (or at the end of class **IF** all work has been completed). I **require** all students to keep **ALL** graded papers in their binder until the end of the course.
- D) If there is an error on my part or on the part of the grading software, a correction to the online grade book [Skyward] will be made within 24 hours.
- E) If you see no change in the grade, assume one of three things: 1) your child did not speak to me about the grade; 2) your child did not have the graded paper in his/her binder for confirmation of the grade; or, 3) the grade received was valid.
- F) Everyone has a bad day now and then. As long as a pattern of poor/missing work is not established, students can recover from a ‘hiccup’ or two.

- By following the above criteria, such inquiries/questions become the student’s responsibility and he/she learns to take charge of his/her own academic success. Thank you for adhering to this procedure. Of course, if **after** following the above criteria you still have questions/concerns, by all means, email me.

GISD ONLINE GRADE BOOK (SKYWARD) CODES USED BY MRS. OSBORN:

- A blank is seen (and coded as ‘missing’) – This simply means the grade has yet to be entered into the grade book. The student’s average is **not** affected. Often, this means that the due date is several days away and Mrs. Osborn is entering grades as students turn in the work (usually on Study Island assignments). A warning of a missing grade can act as a reminder for parent and student of an upcoming due date.
- A ‘0’ entered in the grade book signifies that the work is late, but the student still has time.
- A ‘1’ entered in the grade book signifies that the time allotted to turn in an assignment has passed and the work will no longer be accepted.
- A ‘2’ entered in the grade book signifies that a student has plagiarized a source (generally, from the Internet) or copied/allowed someone else to copy his/her work.
- A ‘3’ entered in the grade book signifies that a student has turned in an assignment that is incomplete.

Sincerely,
Mrs. Tracey Osborn, AP World History
trosborn@garlandisd.net

To Parents and Guardians of Advanced Placement World History students:

As AP World History teachers, we are acutely aware of your students' high achievement levels and what you as parents/guardians have come to expect of them. We, too, believe in setting high expectations, so we want to take a moment to talk about interpreting student scores on their first real AP test. Some of you may be shocked by the drop in scores/averages—but please don't panic. The drop is normal and they will recover.

The tests given in the course, as well as the standards to which we teach, are modeled on the AP Exam administered each spring by the College Board. A score of 50% or higher on the multiple-choice section of that exam is considered passing and has become the rationale for determining the “normal” average score for **first grading period tests** in this course. What does that mean in relation to the GISD grade scale? All APWH multiple-choice tests (**during the FIRST GRADING PERIOD**) are scored on a square-root curve. EXAMPLE: If your student scores a 50 on a test, it is curved to a 70. Here are some plain language descriptions of grade ranges on the first test. Please remember that we believe that each student is capable of being successful.

84 or above
(after curve) The student is most likely way ahead of the game in terms of reading comprehension and note-taking skills. Encourage him/her to keep up the good work. He/she is definitely NOT slacking off. A student guide book for the AP Exam will complement their devotion, self-discipline, and hard work. In a Regular WH class this score would be mid-90s and above.

77-83
(after curve) Considered on-target. Needs to focus on sharpening reading and note-taking skills. Should attend an occasional tutorial. Ask to see his/her notes and to verbalize what is being studied. Needs the recommended student guide book. Is NOT slacking off, but needs to be encouraged to continue the good work. In a Regular WH class this score would be mid-80s to low 90s.

70-82
(after curve) Somewhat below target. May not be devoting the required hour a day to reading and taking notes. Require him/her to show you handwritten notes on a daily basis and to verbalize his/her understanding. Should attend tutorials regularly. The recommended student guide book is a must. With support and encouragement he/she will eventually adapt to the AP standards and processes. In a Regular WH class this score would be high 70s to mid-80s.

Below 70
(after curve) This score does NOT indicate that the student is slacking off or that he/she cannot master the course requirements. Rather, he/she needs significant support and encouragement in developing reading and note-taking skills, especially in the area of locating main ideas and supporting details. Reading aloud may help to create better focus. A student guide book would be an invaluable support. Handwritten notes are an absolute must and should be checked on a daily basis until significant improvement in student ability and confidence is seen. Scheduled tutorials are highly recommended. In a Regular WH class this score would be high 60s to mid-70s. Keep encouraging them.

Adapting to the rigor of the AP program is both challenging and rewarding. The skills and habits developed will sustain the student throughout his/her academic career and into a chosen profession, but most students have to work at it. We are here to support and encourage them—and you—and we believe that every student can be successful if we all work toward the same goal. The best way to contact me is via email: trosborn@garlandisd.net

Thanks for your support,
Tracey Osborn, AP World History

<http://www.teacheroz.com>