Dear Parents,

Welcome back to school! My name is Ms. Rachel Orland. I am your child’s teacher for AP American History. This year will be a fulfilling experience for you and for your child, and I am very excited to get started.

Before delving into the specifics of Back to School Night, I would like to introduce myself. I am a first-year teacher in the Council Rock School District. After receiving my Bachelor of Arts degree in Philosophy from Princeton University, I got my master’s degree in secondary education from Holy Family University. I am looking forward to all of the challenges and milestones that the first year of teaching brings.

As you may already know, Back to School Night is on **Monday September 22 at 7 pm.** I would encourage you to attend! At Back to School Night, I will be handing out and reviewing the syllabus that your child will receive on the first day of classes. I will also go over my policies on Academic Honesty and Plagerism. AP American History is full of ample opportunities for your child to submit written work like essays and Document Based Questions (DBQs). Therefore, I feel it is necessary to make you and your child aware that plagerized work will not be accepted. I will explain this more thoroughly at Back to School Night.

In order to get your child ready for the AP American History exam in May, I will be assigning Document Based Questions (DBQs) throughout the year. If this is your child’s first AP history class, they may not have seen DBQs before. Basically, a DBQ contains a packet of documents and historical data, all related to a specific guiding question. The key to the DBQ is being able to analyze the given documents and then incorporating them into a sound, coherent five-paragraph essay. At Back to School Night, each of you will receive a sample of a DBQ, as well as an example of a response that received a 5 (the highest grade) on the AP American History exam.

As I hope you have realized from this letter, I am extremely excited to teach your students all there is to know about the wonderful world of American History. I am looking forward to a fulfilling academic year.

If you need to contact me before Back to School Night, here is my contact information:

Email address: rorland@crsd.org

Office phone: 215-968-8277

Sincerely,

Rachel Orland