Welcome to AP World, your first experience with an AP class! What does it mean? That you have chosen to take a risk, to challenge yourself, and are committed to working hard next year in an effort to broaden your knowledge of world history. It can be a little intimidating knowing that the AP designation means this is a college level course. There will be times throughout the year that test your resolve to continue. But the unspoken rule is, “no whining”, because remember that you are choosing this path. As your teacher, I will do everything within my abilities to encourage, to instruct and to make AP world a valuable (and hopefully fun) class for all of you.

As of right now, next year is the great unknown. Will we be back in the classroom, or still doing our best with distance learning? Though, that remains to be seen, the warmup for the class begins before August. Typically, AP teachers give a summer assignment to get students rolling and invested in the class that they have chosen. I normally give two! But, because I can’t expect that textbooks are ready to distribute this week, I’m modifying the summer assignment this year. Your task is to read the book, *Genghis Khan and the Making of the Modern World*, by Jack Weatherford. Upon reading it, you will type a 2-3 page synopsis of the book. This should NOT be a summary of the entire book, but should reference some “big picture” ideas about the impact of the Mongols and include personal commentary about specific parts or aspects of the book which you found interesting. The book is not an easy one, but as mentioned earlier, college level. However, it is full of interesting history about one of the great civilizations in world history, the Mongols, and one that many of you likely have never studied. In fact, when school begins in August, the first chapter of our AP course begins with the Mongol empire around the year 1200.

You will need to first acquire a copy of the book, which unfortunately we do not have for you at school. Most students buy their own copy ($10 on Amazon) or borrow one from someone they know that took the class recently. If neither of these options work for you, then email me directly and I’ll find you a copy. Please, don’t procrastinate the assignment though, as the synopsis is due on the first day of class. If you have not completed the summer assignment by the start of school you may be dropped from the class. Whether by Zoom meeting or in person, we will be discussing the book in week one, so please have it read. I’ll let you know where to submit the synopsis depending on how we start school.
If you have questions about the class or the summer assignment, please feel free to email me, but be patient, teachers need some time off in the summer too! Have a great couple of months and I look forward to meeting you all in August!

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