Dear Parents/Guardians:

Welcome to the 8th grade Pre-International Baccalaureate (Pre-IB) Prep United States History course. This is an exciting opportunity for students to examine history like a historian. With a more rigorous focus on document based inquiry, the students will examine and analyze the political, economic, technological and social developments of the United States from the period of colonial settlement through Reconstruction.

Students taking the Pre-IB Prep United States History course are required to engage in analytical reading and writing assignments. This course is designed to foster critical thinking skills, which are necessary for success in future Pre-IB, International Baccalaureate (IB), and Advanced Placement (AP) courses. The expectations for the Pre-IB Prep students are that they can construct a written argument, analyze written and visual sources, conduct extended research projects and become strong independent readers. All students enrolled in the Pre-IB Prep United States History course will be held accountable for completing work on time, reviewing content at home each evening for a minimum of 10 minutes, and engaging actively in their learning process.

The Pre-IB Prep United States History course is intended to prepare students for advanced-level courses at the high school level, which can include Pre-IB, IB, and AP courses. These programs offer students from ninth to twelfth grade the opportunity to be challenged academically and, in the process, possibly earn college credit. Higher-level courses allow your child to be competitive with other college bound students. Statistics show that students who have taken IB and AP courses in high school are much more likely than their peers to complete a bachelor’s degree in four years or less.

Parental guidance in your child’s learning process is critical. Parents can support their child by developing daily routines for distraction free review and encouraging independent reading. Daily attendance is essential to student success. Students need to employ the use of a planner in order to maintain organization and keep their deadlines. Parents can assist in the development of their child’s worldview by helping students make connections between the content and the current world.

I look forward to working with you and your child. Together we can make this a very productive and successful year.

If you have any questions feel free to contact me at [atlexandra\_razgha@scps.k12.fl.us](mailto:atlexandra_razgha@scps.k12.fl.us) or (407) 746-3911.

Sincerely,  
Alexandra Razgha  
8th Grade U.S. History