1-11-13

Good Afternoon,

Welcome to the Spring Semester! Students seemed refreshed and ready what the New Year brings. We started off the week with unit vocabulary. This unit is called “The Early Republic.” We will be discussing domestic, foreign, economic policies, and significant events of the first five presidents.

Next week we will be starting our first major project of the year. This is a group project about the formation of Political Parties. Students will learn the differences between Federalists and Republicans. Students will work in groups of 3 or 4 to prepare for a political conference during which Alexander Hamilton and Thomas Jefferson debate which political party is best suited to lead the U.S. into the 19th century. I will post the rubric on my website and the directions to the project. This is an in-class project. I always actively monitor students in group projects to make sure each student in the group is contributing. The majority of this assignment is to be completed in class.

Please let me know if you have any questions or concerns.

**Also, please review the following message from the Administration Team at Baines:**

*On Thursday, January 24th, Baines Middle School 8th grade students will participate in our 6th Annual Career Day. This exciting, day-long event will expose the 8th graders to a variety of careers and demonstrate how their continued education and life decisions will shape their future opportunities. We hope that this day provides the students with insight into life as an adult and how decisions they will be making today and as they move through high school will impact their future.*

*In the spirit of the day, students are expected to act and dress in a professional manner – as if they were actually interviewing for job or another important event, such as a professional symposium. Young ladies are asked to dress in slacks or skirts/dresses, with a blouse or sweater. If a dress or skirt is to be worn, the hem length should not rise higher than three inches above the knee in front and in back. Tight-fitting apparel (such as leggings) should not be worn unless accompanied by a skirt that meets the hem length guideline previously mentioned. Spaghetti strap dresses, along with racerback tops should not be worn, either. Young men should wear nice shirts and pants. Suits, ties, and/or sport jackets are great, but are not mandatory. The point is to dress professionally. Students should not feel required to spend money to purchase clothing for this event. Our experience from previous years is that most students already have these items or they are able to borrow from others. The FBISD dress code applies to “professional dress.” To reinforce acceptable dress, the 8th grade students viewed a brief video during their ELA classes on January 9th concerning what is and is not acceptable dress.*

*We will have a special presentation during 6th period on Friday, January 18th, to inform the 8th graders of other important information related to Career Day, as well as revisit the expectations for dress code.*

*We encourage your family to discuss this event after it is completed to get your child’s perspective of the day’s activities, and we would also like to thank in advance all the many parent volunteers that have worked so hard for many months to bring this event together!*

*If you have questions about either of these events please call the Baines front desk at (281) 634-6870.*

Thank you for your continued support,

Jamie Bounds

8th Grade US History Teacher

Baines Middle School

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[http://mrsboundsushistory.weebly.com](http://mrsboundsushistory.weebly.com/index.html)

*"Knowledge indeed is a desirable, a lovely possession." Thomas Jefferson*

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