



Dear AICE Global Perspective parent,

In an effort to better communicate with my students and their parents I am asking you to read and respond to this document. I will e-mail updates every two weeks to parents and students. If you do not wish to receive these updates respond as directed at the end of this letter.

I have good news and bad news for this course. Two years ago I wrote a \$6000.00 grant to provide each student with a Kindle Fire for this class. I thought the subject matter and the technology was a wonderful match. I could go on for hours discussing why this is a fantastic idea and that we will be a pilot for the program but I will save that for another time. The students will not be using a textbook. The Kindles will be loaded with novels, books, documents, and videos to bring the 21st Century into this Cambridge classroom. The student does have one need for the year. To be able to take the Kindle home with them the students need to buy a cover for the Kindle. It needs to be a hard cover to protect it. I have seen them for as little as \$6.00 and I have several loaners for those in need. With a cover the student is allowed to use the Kindle 24/7 as their own personal Kindle Fire. The student may add apps, books, magazines, newspapers, movies, and books to their Kindle. The Kindle does has to be returned at the end of the year in good condition and all items deleted that are personal. I also recommend a Kindle Fire charging unit that plugs into electric. The Kindle will slow charge with the cord provided by plugging the Kindle into a computer. It does take time and we all know that students will forget to charge it and it will be useless. I will have a couple of chargers in the class room and they can plug them into my computers but they will be responsible for keeping them charged so they can use them in the classroom. These electrical wall charging plugs are available from \$6.95 to \$19.95 depending on how fast they charge. It is just an option that you might want to consider. The chargers are the same electric charging plug that comes with an iPhone. If you have one, it can be used instead. Amazing that something works for two devices?? The bad news is now I teach three classes of AICE Global Perspectives and I only have 24 Kindles for 85 students so some students will be reading a paperback version of the same books but no bells and whistles. I am so sorry and I will take volunteers as to which option students want to take and then use a lottery for the remaining decisions.

The document attached is the video permission form. The video permission form is required by the district and is to inform you of the films I will **possibly** use this semester. There are instructions on e-mailing your permission along with your e-mail address later in this letter or you can sign it and have your son/daughter return it to me. There will be a class discussion on each of the films. These films and the discussion that will follow are designed to generate ideas for their presentations and essays. The course is designed to provoke new ideas and possible answers to questions that face their generation, and video presentation is a powerful format to engage students. If you would like to preview the films that would be fine and you can e-mail a

change in permission if you wish. I have books the student can read if they wish to read instead of seeing it on the screen. Some students opt for that and it is fine with me. I will write a pass to the media center and they do not have to be in the class room or be noticed that they are doing another assignment. I have listed all the films I plan to show in this class, time permitting. The administration is aware of my showing these films and I have submitted educational support materials to tie them to the state and county standards. I have used some of these films for more than ten years and they will be of great value in teaching Global Perspectives. I enjoy watching them with my students and I have seen many of them over fifty times. I feel this visual component adds to the power of learning. I hope this gives you some insight into how these films are utilized. Thank you for your interest and I hope this answers your questions about them.

Blue Gold - World Water Wars – Corporate control of water resources in the world.

Tapped – An examination of the bottled water industry

Is Wal-Mart Good for America? – Corporate retailers driving the market

Food, Inc. – Corporate profits/Healthy food – what we eat, how it is produced, who we are as a nation

Fast Food Nation – **An edited** and interesting look at the fast food industry based on the book

Blood Diamonds – Nominated for seven Academy Awards for showing the conflict in Sierra Leone over diamonds, child soldiers, and greed.

Very Young Girls – A documentary on child prostitution.

How I Fell in Love with a Fish – A Ted Lecture by Dan Barber on sustainable fish farming

I will also ask you to look at my website if you wish to know what we are doing this semester. The site is www.shshistory.com or you can Google it with my name. All assignments for the entire year are located on the AICE Global Perspectives tab. A calendar for the entire semester is also under the calendar tab. Also on the web site are additional review materials, citation help, my biography, my contact information, video questions, supplemental reading assignments, important passwords, all unit instructions, links to important sources, and citation machine. So if a student is absent or you are making plans to be out of town you can check the calendar to know what we are doing in class.

I have taught high school history, geography, economics, and government. I have also taught AP American History and AP American Government. I have been teaching AICE for four years, have attended seven seminars on their teaching methods, and visited Cambridge University last summer. I have taught Pre-AICE Global Perspectives, AICE Global Perspectives, AICE American History, and AICE International History. I taught American History, Political Science, Western Civilizations, and International Relations at State College of Florida. I have taught student teachers at West Virginia University and Humanities for the graduate school at Marshall University. Read my web site under *meet the teacher* to find more about where and what I have taught.

The classroom has thirty computers in it, due to a grant I wrote five years ago to provide my students with computer access to Word 2013 and the Internet. There are rules they must follow to be able to use the computers but they do not have to use them every day if they do not wish to

word process their work. The students may e-mail their assignments to me from home via the Blackboard Network.

The syllabus is on my website, the Kindles, and on Blackboard for students and parents to refer to throughout the year. I will not waste the paper to print a syllabus for each student but they are welcome to print one in the media center or at home. The course is designed to introduce the AICE student to writing, researching, and thinking. The course is developed around the three papers required by Cambridge. The papers and course requirements are in the syllabus. The course will build on the History course skills and introduce new ones. All are applicable to their high school and college career and the world they will soon be moving into. This course is now required for all students entering the Cambridge program.

There are after school seminars to review material and assist in writing skills but most valuable would be one- on-one assistance on their essay and presentations skills for the successful completion of the AICE credit. These seminars are scheduled throughout the year. They are one hour long and are highly recommended. These seminars will give students that extra edge to be successful in an AICE course.

So to save paper if you would now send your e-mail **and** your son/daughter's e-mail addresses. Please provide your e-mail address if you wish to get my e-mails. They are blind e-mails so no one else will see your address. Please take a minute right now and e-mail me at sandy.crihfield@sarasotacountyschools.net. In the title of the email please put the name of the person who has each account so I will know whose e-mail it is, your son/daughter's name, and the class they are taking to me. (To be clear that would be two separate emails – one for you the parent and one for the student.) The second important step is to verify that you have read the attached video permission form and have approved or denied their use for your son/daughter. Type the words "video yes" in the body of the email if you are giving permission or "video no" if you are denying permission. I will set up distribution lists and start emailing when I get them organized. Thank you for the information.

I look forward to a great semester with your son/daughter. I hope this information is helpful. Please remember to sign and return the video permission form **OR** in the body of the e-mail that you are sending me type the words "video yes" if you are giving permission to see these films or "video no" if you are denying permission. If you need to talk to me use the information on the website or the syllabus.

Sincerely,
Dr. Sandra B. Crihfield

The SCHOOL BOARD OF SARASOTA COUNTY, FLORIDA
Informed Parental Consent Form

Instructions: Complete this form and return it to the school. It must be on file at the school before your son/daughter/ward will be permitted to participate in this activity.

I, _____ (parent/guardian) **DO** give my permission for

(son/daughter/ward) to participate in the following

Please print

Class room activity:

PLANNED CLASS ROOM ACTIVITY AND CURRICULUM OBJECTIVES

- The student will possibly view these films to gain academic knowledge of the time period or topic.
 - The student will be exposed to a visual component to enhance the learning experience.
 - The student will be stimulated to create research questions, develop themes, question in depth topics, and broaden the scope of their understanding.

The following films may be utilized thought the course:

Blue Gold, World Water Wars, Tapped, Is Wal-Mart Good for America, Food, Inc., Blood Diamonds, Fast Food Nation, and How I Fell in Love with a Fish.

I understand that some of the instructional materials to be used in this activity may contain mature themes and/or language. If you have specific questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sandra B. Crihfield AICE Global Perspectives - SHS

Signature of guardian /parent

date

(parent/guardian) **DO NOT** give my permission for my

_____ (son/daughter) to participate in the above listed class room activity. I understand that he /she will be provided with an alternative lesson relating to the same curriculum objective.

Sandra B. Crihfield

Signature of parent/guardian

date

AICE Global Perspectives - SHS