

March 23, 2010

Dear Ferrucci Parents,

The second semester of seventh grade has been in full swing the last few weeks! It is hard to believe that our inexperienced seventh graders are quickly turning into seasoned junior high students. Before we know it, they will be planning for the ninth grade dance and registering for their high school courses at Emerald Ridge.

This letter is to inform you of important information that impacts all seventh graders. Seventh grade social studies, called Pacific Northwest Studies, includes some exciting topics between now and June. Students will study local Native American culture, explorers to our area, Washington's road to statehood, and how our state is governed. Because this portion of Pacific Northwest Studies meets the expectations for an important social studies graduation requirement, **it is essential that your student receive a passing grade of a D or better** to determine whether or not this graduation requirement has been met.

Please read the following excerpt from School Board Policy 2400R:

5. Washington State History

Students earning a Washington State diploma must pass a course of study in Washington's History and Government OR another state's history and government. Washington State History taken in the 7th or 8th grade may be counted to help fulfill the requirement in high school, but will not be counted as a high school credit. In the Puyallup School District, Pacific Northwest Studies is taken in 7th grade to fulfill this requirement. If a student has transferred in from another state and has completed that state's history and government course, the requirement for Washington State History and Government will have been satisfied. This class will show up as a "P" (pass) and will not be included in the student's high school GPA. In essence, Washington State History and Government is a non-credit bearing high school graduation requirement.

Students, who have not met the requirement at another school or in another state, may fulfill this requirement through an alternative learning experience approved by the Department of Student Learning and Instructional Support.

This information is not meant to alarm you as most students do pass seventh grade social studies. However, it is our responsibility to inform you of the impact a failing grade would have on the fulfillment of graduation requirements. Our seventh grade social studies teachers will continue to keep you informed of your student's progress through Interim Progress Reports. Home Access Center is also available to check in on your student's current progress. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact your student's counselor at (253)841-8756.

Sincerely,

Ailene Baxter
Principal