

Dear Parents:

I am very excited to be teaching math and science in the Middle School this year. I anticipate successful collaboration with the students in the classroom as we learn together this year.

Below is a brief summary of goals and policies as well as my contact information in case you need to reach me at any time before or during the school year.

I look forward to getting to know your children as the year begins.

Rabbi Dani Davis

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Goals:

- Continue to develop necessary math skills as per the curriculum for each grade and on each student's individual level.
- Help each student improve and hone the skills necessary for learning.
- Collaborate with the students on their organization skills and preparedness for class.
- Maintain a classroom that fosters respect among the students for each other, their teachers and the school.

Homework:

- Math homework will be assigned and checked daily. It will be collected/ graded periodically during each trimester.
- Science homework will be assigned periodically and may include reading in addition to other work.

Grading System:

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|----------------------------|---|-----|
| Tests | = | 40% |
| Quizzes | = | 20% |
| Homework | = | 15% |
| Class Participation | = | 10% |
| Notebook Tests | = | 10% |
| Planner/Homework Pad Tests | = | 5% |

B'H

Dear Student,

For my new students, let me introduce myself. I am Mrs. Greene, your Language Arts teacher for the upcoming year. I taught in several different schools, and I am thrilled to be returning for another year in YST Boys.

A bit about myself: I live in Highland Park with my husband and children. Reading and hiking are my favorite activities and I was very fortunate to have done plenty of both with my family in Eretz Yisroel this summer! I love stories about adventure and survival and plan on sharing a number of them with you this year.

You will write a lot in my Language Arts class. By the end of the year, you will see just how much you have grown as a writer. I try to put a fun and creative spin on most assignments; hopefully, you will be able to smile while you work!

7th Graders: This year we will be studying Biology together. Science is a fascinating way to grasp the magnificence and mystery of HaShem's Creation. As we explore, I will try to include many hands-on experiences to bring our studies to life.

I am looking forward to meeting you. If you participate in class, get your work done, and show respect for yourself, your classmates and your teachers, it will certainly be an amazing year.

Enjoy the rest of your summer!

Sincerely,
Mrs. Greene



“Friends, Romans, Countrymen - lend me your ears”¹ (why exactly would a person want to ‘borrow’ an ear is a question for a different time). It was nearly “fourscore and seven years ago today”² that I began teaching at YST (at least it may seem that way to some). My first day was “a day that will live in infamy!”³ (don’t ask what happened!) “I came to this school with “nothing to offer but blood, toil, tears and sweat.”⁴ (except a college degree in political science, nearly twenty years teaching experience, and what I thought were some pretty good ideas how I could make class more interesting). But we must “remember that your own resolution to succeed is more important than any other.”⁵ So, we resolved, and hopefully improved, and developed a curriculum for Social Studies that would stand the test of time.

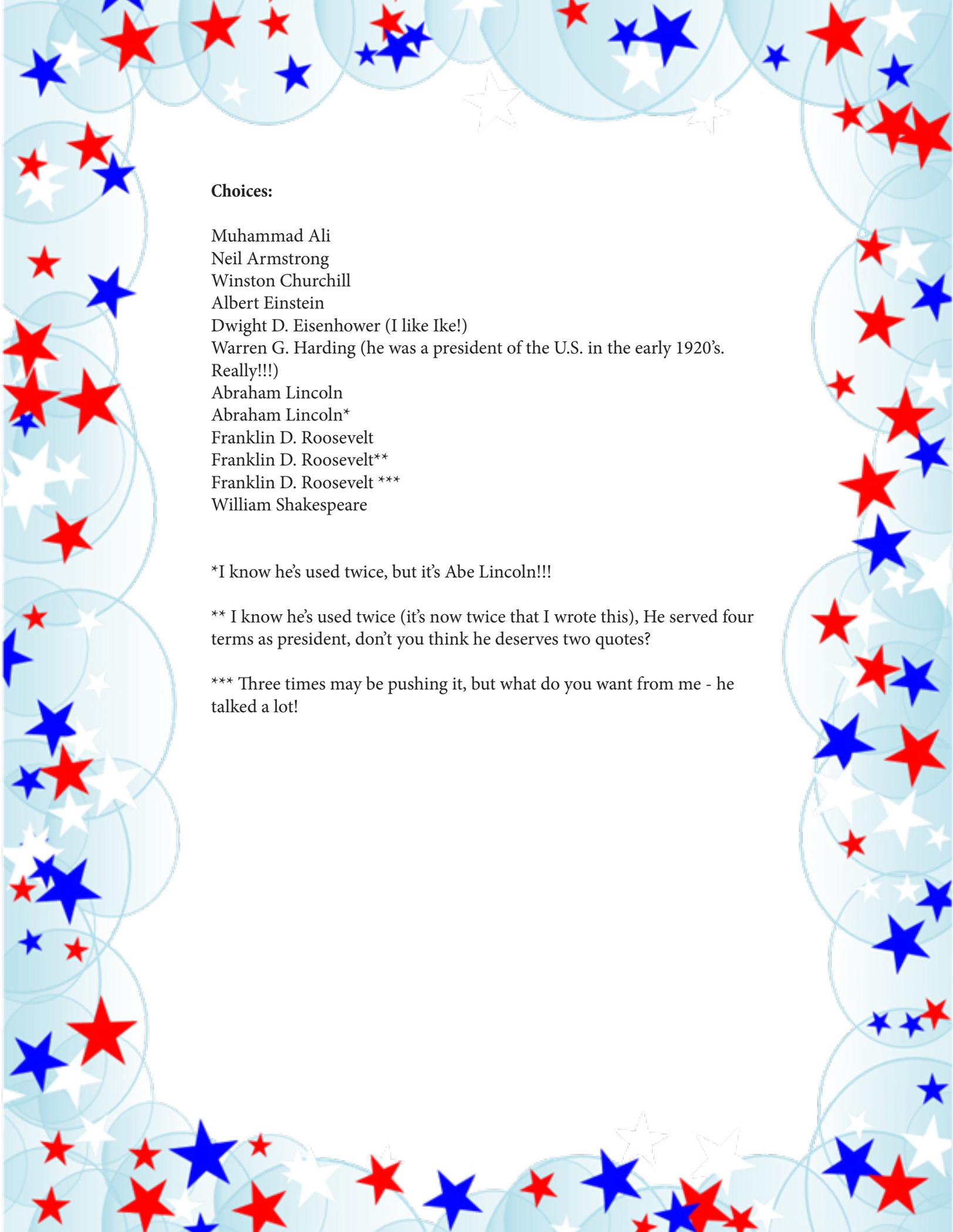
This coming year we will בע"ה be covering the same material as in years past (6th grade - World History, 7th grade - early American History, 8th grade - America post Civil War to contemporary times). However, “insanity is doing the same thing over and over again and expecting different results.”⁶ Instead, we will try to “return to normalcy”⁷ (is that even a real word) by making some minor changes. These changes may only be “one small step for man,”⁸ but as it has been said; “Do something! . . . if that doesn’t work, try something else.”⁹ Therefore, we are introducing a new syllabus to guide us through the year. We may not stick precisely to it, but it will be a beneficial guideline to what we will be doing and where we should be up to at any given point. “In preparing for battle, I have always found that plans are useless, but planning is indispensable.”¹⁰ Please don’t let the sheer amount of work scare you, as “there is nothing to fear by fear itself.”¹¹

Anyway, I hope you had as wonderful summer as we did here at Camp Lokensky, and are excited for the upcoming year and ready to make the most of it. “We have one life; it soon will be past; what we do for G-d is all that will last.”¹²

Anyone who correctly identifies which historical figure said each of the twelve quotes above will earn an extra point per quote on their first “fun quiz!” and if you make a solid effort, you can earn points, even if they are not all correct (no need to use google, if that Internet thing is still around, or has it joined the annals of His-story. (Use the choices on the next page and write the answer in the footnote space below). “Until we meet again!”

-Rabbi Y. Lokensky

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Choices:

Muhammad Ali

Neil Armstrong

Winston Churchill

Albert Einstein

Dwight D. Eisenhower (I like Ike!)

Warren G. Harding (he was a president of the U.S. in the early 1920's.
Really!!!)

Abraham Lincoln

Abraham Lincoln*

Franklin D. Roosevelt

Franklin D. Roosevelt**

Franklin D. Roosevelt ***

William Shakespeare

*I know he's used twice, but it's Abe Lincoln!!!

** I know he's used twice (it's now twice that I wrote this), He served four terms as president, don't you think he deserves two quotes?

*** Three times may be pushing it, but what do you want from me - he talked a lot!