Incoming A.P. World History students are required to read *A History of the World in Six Glasses*. Tom Standage’s work provides an engaging and innovative historical analysis of six different beverages and their impact during six important eras of history. The book effectively provides a broad overview of history and encourages an understanding of the numerous forces (political, cultural, economic, technological, social, religious and ecological) which affect the development of civilizations and the interactions between diverse societies. The use of this book in no way represents an endorsement of the use or misuse of any of the beverages.

Students will complete an assessment consisting of short essay questions during the first week of school based on their reading. Over the summer students are required to take handwritten notes on their reading and will turn in their notes on the day of the Summer Reading Assessment. In addition, the students will be allowed to use their notes during the assessment.

In reading and taking notes, students are advised to consider the following:

### “Beer in Mesopotamia and Egypt”
1. How is the discovery of beer linked to the growth of the first “civilizations”?
2. What is the relationship between beer and writing, commerce, and health?

### “Wine in Greece and Rome”
1. How did the use of wine differ from that of beer in ancient Greece and Rome?
2. How and why did wine develop into a form of a status symbol in Greece?
3. How did the use of wine in Roman culture differ from that of ancient Greece?
4. What is the relationship between wine and empire, medicine, and religion?

### “Spirits in the Colonial Period”
1. What is the origin of distilled spirits?
2. What is the connection between spirits and colonization?
3. How was the production of spirits connected to slavery?
4. In the 18th century, how did spirits help Britain have a more superior navy than France?

### “Coffee in the Age of Reason”
1. Who did Europeans get coffee from and how did it spread to Europe?
2. Describe coffee’s effect on the global balance of power (in terms of commerce).
3. How did coffee play a pivotal role in the scientific revolution?
4. How did coffee play a pivotal role in the “financial revolution”?
5. How did coffee play a pivotal role in the Enlightenment and French Revolution?
“Tea and the British Empire”
1. How did the consumption of tea in Europe differ from how it was consumed in China or Japan?
2. How did tea transform English society? Who were its main consumers and what were some of the new rituals that surrounded tea?
3. How was tea an integral part of the Industrial Revolution?
4. What was the connection between tea and politics?
5. How was tea connected to the opium trade and the Opium War of 1839-1842?
6. What role did the tea trade and production play in the British rule over India?

“Coca-Cola and the Rise of America”
1. What was the relationship of coke and World War II?
2. How was coke thought of by the communists during the Cold War?
3. What is meant by “globalization in a bottle”?
4. How did Coca-Cola come to be seen as an American value? How did this help and hurt Coca-Cola (and, in some ways, America itself?)

THE BIG PICTURE
1. Of the six that that the author discusses, which beverage do you think has played the most significant role in history?
2. What do you think is the beverage for the next era in history? Do you agree with the author’s choice in the epilogue?

If you have any questions, please e-mail or Dave Allen (allend@fultonschools.org), Sandra Doolen (doolen@fultonschools.org), or Andree FitzPatrick (fitzpatricka@fultonschools.org).