



WEST POTOMAC HIGH SCHOOL

FAIRFAX COUNTY
PUBLIC SCHOOLS

6500 QUANDER ROAD
ALEXANDRIA, VA 22307

January 12, 2022

Dear West Potomac Parent,

Your child has been identified by their current history and English teacher as a potential enrollee in the Humanities course for the 2022-2023 academic year. The Humanities course is a partnership between the English and Social Studies departments that pairs Honors English 10 and Honors World History 2 as a two-block course. Your child will receive separate English and Social Studies grades throughout the school year, and overall credits at the end of the year. Both will appear on the transcript as Honors courses.

The Humanities course is non-traditional, however, because of the partnership that the course is built around. By pairing two courses together, we provide students with two teachers who are working together to support your child's learning and growth in both classes throughout the year. Our goal is to provide extra support in a challenging Honors environment. Students who successfully work their way through the Humanities course will be ready to take more advanced courses in the 11th and 12th grades and in college.

Humanities students are immersed in a cohort of fellow students with whom they will be working all year long. These students work their way through a curriculum that is teamed. The two courses will be linked thematically so that students are exploring common ideas to focus their exploration of literature and history. We encourage students to study the way that human beings have lived and developed by pushing them to explore ideas that are common and relevant throughout human existence.

The courses will also link their skill focuses so that students see how reading and writing reach outside of individual content areas and allow them to engage in every aspect of their lives. In this way, the work for each class will support the work in the other class. For example, a research essay in English will be sourced from the material in History, which will help them explore and understand what they are learning in that class. We create a classroom environment that encourages students to think more deeply about the world in which they live, both through individual discovery and alongside classmates.

The Humanities teachers all have experience working together in partnerships to support students, and they have been successful with students who are up for this challenge. If you would prefer that your child not be enrolled in this class, please contact your student's English and History teachers to discuss an alternative course placement. We look forward to helping your child grow in the program and working with you. Please contact us if you have any questions!

Sincerely,

Kevin McMahon
West Potomac High
Director, Student Services

Kelly Ashton
West Potomac High
English Department Chair

Brian Bishop
West Potomac High
Social Studies Department Chair

