Welcome to your senior year of high school! I’m happy that you have chosen to challenge yourself and take an AP course (perhaps more than one), and especially this AP course, in which we will discuss and debate government and politics in the U.S. of A. If you are only doing it because your friends say you should, then don’t! If you are doing it for the extra grade point, then get out now! But, if you honestly want to learn more about our political system, have some deep conversations about politics and take a challenging test in May, then you’ve come to the right place.

We don’t know what next year will look like. I’m really hoping that it will be safe to get back into the classroom by August, but as of now we need to anticipate the possibility of distance learning extending into the fall semester. We will make this happen one way or another though!

These are crazy times with Corona virus affecting so much in our lives. On top of that, there are major social issues, like racial tensions and police brutality that are dividing America. And on top of that, a pivotal Presidential election will be held in November. Simply put, there’s a LOT going on right now. A huge part of learning about government and politics means staying informed with what is currently happening in the news. As a class we will spend a great deal of time studying government through the vehicle of current affairs. **The first part of your summer assignment is to pay attention to the news this summer so that you can contribute in class discussion.** Read it online, watch it on cable tv, but by all means, check out different sources to see if they are reporting the same things! A more formal assignment with current events will follow in August.

Your second assignment is the summer read, which you will need to acquire a copy of. We will be reading, *What You Should Know About Politics But Don’t (Fourth EDITION)*, by Jessamyn Conrad, in preparation for the upcoming election cycle in American politics. You’ll need to buy your own copy of this. It is available on Amazon for $12. **Read the book over the summer and type a three page synopsis of it. Be sure to also mix in your opinions of the ideas presented in the book.** We will discuss the book during our first AP meeting (first Gold Card day). If you haven’t read the book and written your paper by then, you may be dropped from AP. I also reserve the right to drop you from the class during the year if you are not showing up to our weekly sessions, not turning in required assignments, or not passing the tests.

Meeting times will be on Thursdays (during Gold Card) next year, depending on what the schedule looks like and if we are meeting in person or virtually. Government is a one semester course, with Economics to follow in the second semester. AP Government, however, will continue to meet until the AP test in May.
We will be getting our AP Government textbooks in August!

Have a great summer!!!

Mr. Homan
nhoman@njuhsd.com

“The care of human life and happiness, and not their destruction, is the first and only object of good government”. -Thomas Jefferson