



FAIRFAX COUNTY
PUBLIC SCHOOLS

West Springfield High School
6100 Rolling Road
Springfield, Virginia 22152
703-913-3800

June 3, 2009

Dear Parent(s):

Welcome to Advanced Placement US Government. We are looking forward to working with your sons and daughters this upcoming academic year.

This letter is to inform you of the summer assignment for the class. With students approaching the age in which we ask them to become active and knowledgeable citizens in our country, we have designed this assignment as an examination of the foundation of our government, the United States Constitution.

This assignment will be due on September 10th or 11th (depending on what day your child has their second AP Government class). There will be no late work turned in on this assignment and it will be a major portion of the first quarter grade. The entire packet and reading assignment may be accessed online at West Springfield's web site (<http://www.fcps.edu/westspringfieldhs/info/sr/sr.shtml>).

The summer assignment has three parts.

First, each student will read the United States Constitution. There is a series of questions relating to the Constitution in the packet. Each question is to be answered completely on the pages of the packet (not on separate paper).

Second, each student will have to read the posted articles and type their answers to the reflection question listed in the packet. The readings are brief excerpts from the following texts:

Democracy in American, by Alexis De Tocqueville
The American Commonwealth, by James Bryce

Third, each student will create flash cards for the 72 key terms that have been provided. On one side of the card they will write the term. On the other side they are to write the complete definition as it relates to government.

One of the things you can do as a parent to help your child succeed in AP Government is to make sure they don't wait until the last minute to complete this summer work. Students who do it over time, in small manageable amounts, are more likely to do better in the course. Please also remember that this is a school assignment and Fairfax County Public School has very strict regulations regarding plagiarism.

Thanks for your time, attention, and support. Your encouragement is a vital piece in helping your child become successful in AP Government. Again, we look forward to working with your sons and daughters in September. If you have questions, you may contact any of us via email during the summer.

Sincerely,

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