

May 21, 2018

Dear Students,

I am so excited to have the opportunity to work with you in AP Government & Politics next year! This course will be full of essential learning and experiences for any student who plans to go to university after high school; it is also full of practical skill building for any student who plans to be a grown-up one day! We will build knowledge and skill to prepare every member of the class to pass the AP exam in May and to go on as an active citizen in this county and in the world.

To prepare for active participation in the AP GoPo class of 2018-2019, you will need to spend some time over your summer. There is no written assignment; you will not turn in anything on the first day of school. Rather, you will prepare yourself to **participate in an academic and intellectual conversation** about important aspects of the American political process. Academic conversations have a goal of deepening knowledge and adding sophistication to our understandings. Intellectual conversations refer to a lot of facts in order to analyze and evaluate the processes and workings of the political system. This conversation will occur on our first class meeting in August 2018.

So...you will be watching SCOTUS this summer. In June/July, the Supreme Court of the United States makes several decisions on the several hearings they held throughout the 2017-2018 season. TWO significant issues will be our focus: 1) Amendment 1 and religious expression and 2) gerrymandering. You will need to understand what's at the core of those issues and constitutional questions and be able to interpret and evaluate the majority decision of the Supreme Court.

In order to be able to prepare successfully, I've gathered resources for you. You will join our Google Classroom page (code: levpb1) and our classroom Remind (@dedapgopo). You will read about the 4 pending cases, watch for the decision, and will reach out to me through Remind with your questions.

Congratulations for making the choice to be here and to join me next year. I look forward to an enjoyable year!

Sincerely,

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Masterpiece Cakeshop, LTD. v. Colorado Civil Rights Commission: 1st Amendment

Gill v. Whitford: gerrymandering

Benisek v. Lamone: gerrymandering

League of Women Voters v. Rucho: gerrymandering