



Dear Humanities Class of 2024,

Congratulations on your admission to the Humanities House! We are so excited to welcome you to the program, and we look forward to working with you and watching you grow over the next four years.

Transitioning to high school, and a magnet program at that, will be exciting, challenging, and rewarding. Your freshman year will lay the foundation for many of the skills and ideas that you will hone through your studies. We've tailored these courses to provide you a range of experiences that will promote new ways of thinking and help you discover different ways of doing.

You are about to embark upon an extraordinary journey through a world of intellectual and creative giants. You will encounter, by chance and by design, books and ideas and works of art that will have a profound effect on you. Let's begin that journey now.

Attached is your summer preparation opportunity. We included information for you to use to guide yourself through the work, which should help you prepare for the thinking you will do next year, and provide a basis for summer collaborative work with your peers in Humanities.

Next year is going to be fantastic!

Have a great summer,

Mr. Leong  
NSL Teacher

Ms. Van Yuga  
English Teacher

Mrs. Horan  
Criticism Teacher

## Poolesville High School

### Humanities 2020-2021 Theme: Participating in the American Experience

***\*Please, read this whole document in its entirety.***

This summer, we are asking you to begin shaping your views on what the American Experience is, how people participate in that experience, and how that experience evolves over time.

#### **Prepare yourself to participate in PHS Humanities summer conversations about:**

1. What participating in the American Experience *looks like*
2. What participating in the American Experience *sounds like*
3. What participating in the American Experience *feels like*

In order to accomplish this, you will need to immerse yourself in the American Experience in a variety of ways to gather your evidence. We expect to see specific evidence from at least one activity in each of the following areas:

- Read/view/listen to a text-based source, fiction or nonfiction (could be a novel, play, article, newspaper series, informative text, podcast)
- View a piece of art or a performance (many virtual options!)
- Visit (or virtually visit) a meaningful location (political rally, civic meeting, historical location, museum, etc.)

Please start early to allow yourself enough time to engage in these activities and to reflect on their impact!

**\*Also in the next few weeks, you will be invited to participate in a summer Humanities House course in myMCPS Classroom where you will have the opportunity to engage with Humanities House teachers and classmates at all grade levels in additional summer activities. There will be different opportunities for you to participate in discussions, readings, and analysis surrounding art, current events, literature, policy, et cetera. Some will be in connection to summer work, some will be enrichment, some will be just for fun. Please accept the invitation to the classroom so you can stay up to date with Humanities activities over the summer.**