THE NEW YORK CITY DEPARTMENTOF EDUCATION

# *Edward R. Murrow High School*

DESIGNATED A SCHOOL OF EXCELLENCE BY THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

Allen Barge, Principal

June 6th 2018

Dear Parent/Guardian,

Your child has chosen to take Advanced Placement American Government and Politics in the Fall of 2017. We strongly recommend that you **carefully consider your child’s academic course-loads and extra-curricular commitments** that will occur concurrently with the AP Social Studies course. We recommend that parent and student come to the mutual conclusion that this AP course fits reasonably into your child’s schedule.

**Students should only take an AP Social Studies course with the intent of completing the highly rigorous Social Studies curriculum and taking the exam.** While students may potentially receive college credit dependent upon exam scores and individual college requirements, it should be noted that AP test scores are not considered in the college admissions process. For those students who prefer to demonstrate content mastery in ways other than taking the AP test, we offer many other compelling Social Studies courses.

This particular course covers all issues related to American Government and Politics. Consequently, the course curriculum advances rapidly and the class requirements are intense:

* Students will master detailed nuances of American Government and apply these ideas and trend to present-day political issues.
* Each student must email a completed **summer reading and writing assignment** by August 30th.
* Homework is assigned almost every night. Students will use a college-level textbook and will read a variety of other advanced texts.
* Students may need an hour to complete the reading and writing components of each homework assignment. **By deciding to take this course, each student is committing to do this work.**

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| *Sample Homework Assignment*: ***Political Parties: Founding, 155,160-165, 174-177***1. *How did political parties begin? (Analyze Two Views)*
2. *Are political parties structured?*
3. *Explain the different types of Minor parties. Which do you think would be most effective?*
4. *Why aren’t Third Parties effective?*

*NEWSPAPER: Find an article and explain how the article shows political parties working or not working.* |

* Students will improve their writing skills and sharpen their problem-solving techniques. Students must assume the responsibility of reasoning, analyzing, and understanding ideas and events for themselves.
* Students must complete a through semester project each semester of the course.
* Comprehension of the often-complex material demands active daily participation.
* Students will participate in “Seminar” classes, in which a college level article is assigned to be read, highlighted and understood. Students will lead and direct conversation and analysis of the article(s).
* THE SUMMER ASSIGNMENT IS REQUIRED AND IS POSTED ON **mistermills.weebly.com**

During the school year, your son or daughter will need your support and encouragement in order to be successful. Many students desire to take Advanced Placement courses, but space **class space is limited.** Please be aware that space has been made available for your son or daughter in the programming of this course. **Taking this course is a FULL year commitment (ONE SEMESTER OF AP GOVERNMENT and ONE SEMESTER OF ENRICHED ECONOMICS). These linked classes ensure that the student will fully meet all senior year graduation requirements.**

**All students will be required to take the Advanced Placement exam given in May**. Your youngster will have the opportunity to earn credit or advanced standing at most of the nation’s colleges and universities.

I am very excited about having your son or daughter in Advanced Placement Government. I look forward to an exciting and rewarding year. For more information about the class, please visit my website at mistermills.weebly.com.

Sincerely,

Mr. R Mills

(Tear off and return) (Tear off and return)

I am aware of the YEAR LONG commitment my child is making by enrolling in **Advanced Placement U.S. Government** and Politics and **Enriched Economics**. I will work to support my child to prepare and take the AP exam.

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 Print Student’s Name Signature of Student Signature of Parent/Guardian

***EXAM/COURSE OUTLINE***

**U. S. Government and Politics (AP Government and Politics)**

**I.     Constitutional Underpinnings of United States Government**

A.      Considerations that influenced the formulation and adoption of the Constitution
B.      Separation of powers
C.      Federalism
D.      Theories of democratic government

**II.     Political beliefs and behaviors of individuals**

A.      Beliefs that citizens hold about their government and its leaders
B.      Processes by which citizens learn about politics
C.      The nature, sources, and consequences of public opinion
D.      The ways in which citizens vote and otherwise participate in political life
E.      Factors that influence citizens to differ from one another in terms of political beliefs and behaviors

**III.    Political parties, interest groups, and mass media: mechanisms that facilitate the communication of interests and preferences by like-minded citizens**

1. Political parties and elections (including their functions, organization, historical

 development, and effects on the political process)
B.      Interest groups (including pacs)
            1.      The range of interests that are or are not represented
            2.      The activities of interest groups
            3.      The effects of interest groups on the political process
            4.      The unique characteristics and roles of pacs in the political process
C.      The mass media
            1.      The functions and structures of the media
            2.      The impacts of media on politics

**IV.     Institutions of National Government: The Congress, the presidency, the bureaucracy, and the federal Courts**

A.      The major formal and informal institutional arrangements of powers
B.      Relationships among these four institutions
C.      Links between these institutions and political parties, interest groups, the media, subnational governments, and public opinion

**V.     Public policy**

A.      Policy making in a federal system
B.      The formation of policy agenda
C.      The role of institutions in the enactment of policy
D.      The role of the bureaucracy and the courts in policy implementation and

 interpretation
E.      Linkages between policy processes and the following:
            1.      Political institutions and federalism
            2.      Political parties
            3.      Interest groups
            4.      Public opinion
            5.      Elections
            6.      Policy networks

**VI.     Civil liberties and civil rights**

A.      The development of civil liberties and civil rights by judicial interpretation
B.      Knowledge of substantive rights and liberties

C. The impact of the Fourteenth Amendment on rights and liberties