January 7, 2020

Dear 8th Grade FOMS and GMS Parents and Guardians,

My name is Ken Oseneek, and I am the Social Studies Resource Teacher at Gaithersburg High School. In order to graduate from high school, students must complete the following three Social Studies courses: U.S. History, National, State, and Local (NSL) Government, and Modern World History. We offer on-level, Honors, and AP levels of all three of these courses.

While all students typically take U.S. History in 9th grade, students who wish to take an Advanced Placement (AP) course in the 9th grade, can take AP Government and Politics. The college-level AP Government and Politics course is designed to be a one semester course by the College Board, but we are able to extend it for the whole school year. This allows 9th grade students double the time to learn the rigorous content. It also gives the teachers more time to work on the writing and document analysis skills required for students to score well on the AP exams at the end of the year. Students will then have the opportunity to take AP U.S. History (or Honors or On-Level) in the 10th grade.

Additionally, we offer an AP Support class in order to assist first-time AP students. It is a skills-based class to supplement the content they receive in AP Government by using structured activities (like time management, Cornell notetaking, etc...), specific skill development needed for college level work, and proactive advising. The class helps prepare students for the rigors of the AP Government class they are concurrently taking as well as preparation to take the AP exam. It is an optional course to supplement the AP Government class but is highly recommended.

If you would like to sign your child up for AP Government (and the AP Support class), please complete the Google Form below by Friday, February 7th. I will also talk more about this class at the incoming 9th grade parent night on Wednesday, January 22, 2020.

https://forms.gle/UxBdgZTc3bXhHNAU6

If you have any questions in the meantime, please don’t hesitate to call 301-284-4594 or email Kenneth_J_Oseneek@mcpsmd.org.

Sincerely,

Kenneth J. Oseneek
Social Studies Resource Teacher
Gaithersburg High School