

West Essex Regional School District Board of Education Meeting

May 10, 2021



Reports

- Board President - Mary Wojtowicz
- Superintendent - Damion Macioci
- Independent Study Students
- Supervisor of Social Studies and World Languages - Laura Drago
- Director of Curriculum - Ryan Gupta
- Principals - Gina Donlevie and Caesar Diliberto

Superintendent's Report

Damion Macioci

- COVID-19 Activity Level Report - Northeast Region - Moderate Category (Bergen, Essex, Hudson)
- Building Operations Committee Meeting - Friday, May 14
- Planning for 2021-2022 School Year
- One unused emergency day (snow day) - Friday, May 28 - Schools Closed

Thank you to our Reopening Committee for your dedication and time during the 2020-2021 school year!

Etymology

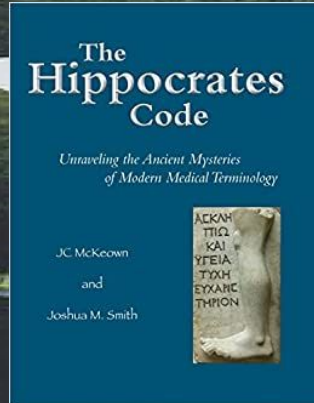
Juliana Himawan
Advisor: Kaitlin Moleen



Hidden meanings found in words...

Etymology of “etymology”

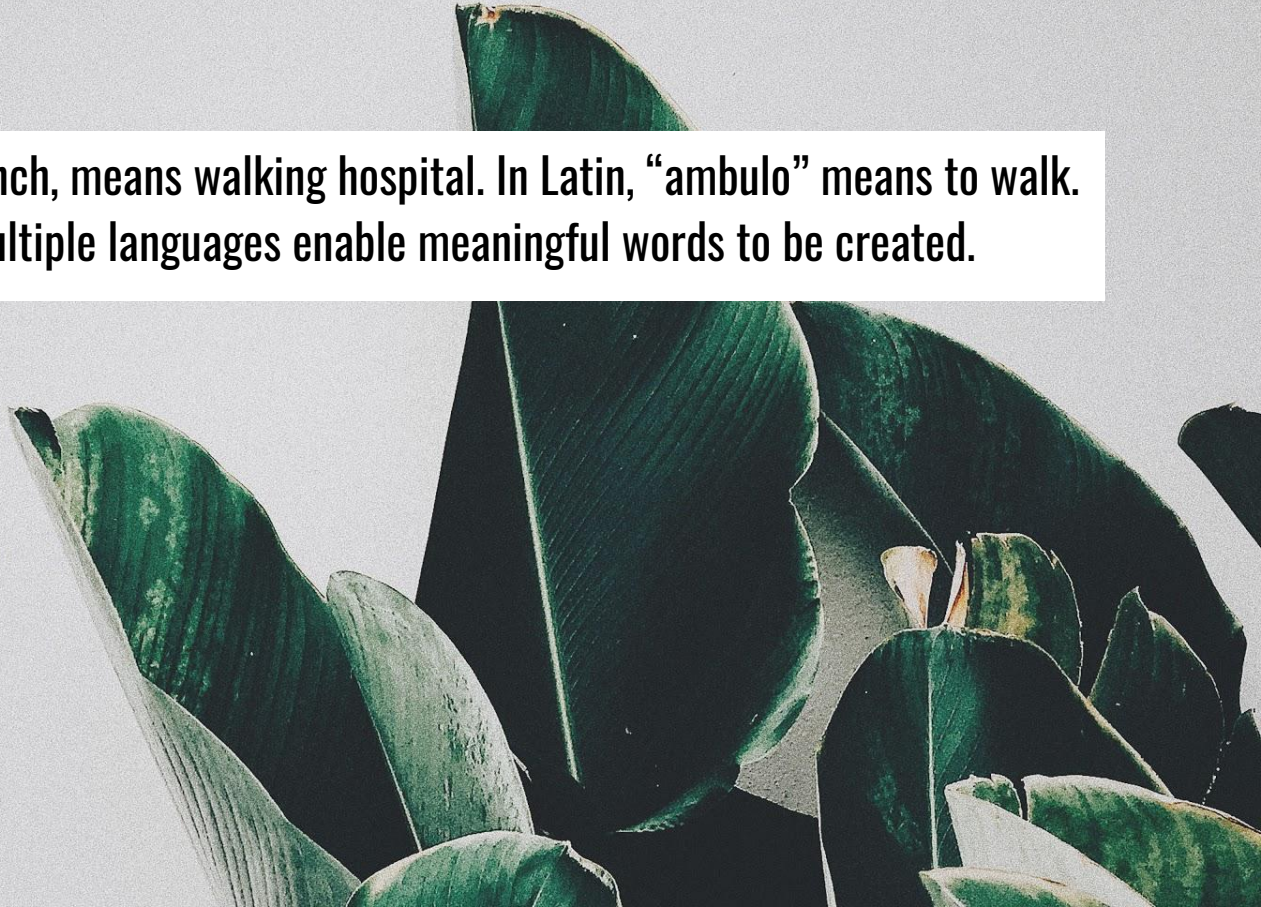
Etymology is derived from the Greek word “etumología” which means the **sense of the truth**.
Etymology gives society deeper meanings of words and even ancient stories!



“Muscles” was a word created by someone who thought muscles looked like mice running under the skin. The Latin form of the word means little mice.



“Ambulance,” derived from French, means walking hospital. In Latin, “ambulo” means to walk. The connection between the multiple languages enable meaningful words to be created.



Skincare Company

I also created a company inspired by Pliny the Elder and Ovid, incorporating what I have learned this year to skincare.

Purus

pure beatitudinem



Curated by Juliana Himawan

No. 1

Imber

(Latin word for rain)

A rain inspired water serum, made to hydrate skin of all types. Key ingredients: Aloe, hyaluronic acid.



No. 2

Novus

(Latin word for new)

A refreshing spray used to smooth, soften, and calm skin throughout the day.



Etymology has brought me closer to being able to understand other languages while also being more aware of Latin in my everyday life. Despite the fact that Latin is considered a dead language, its influence can be found through a majority of words in the English language. Learning Latin, especially roots that relate to medicine, will continue to aid my understanding of new words and topics.





Political Theory

Adrianna LoBasso

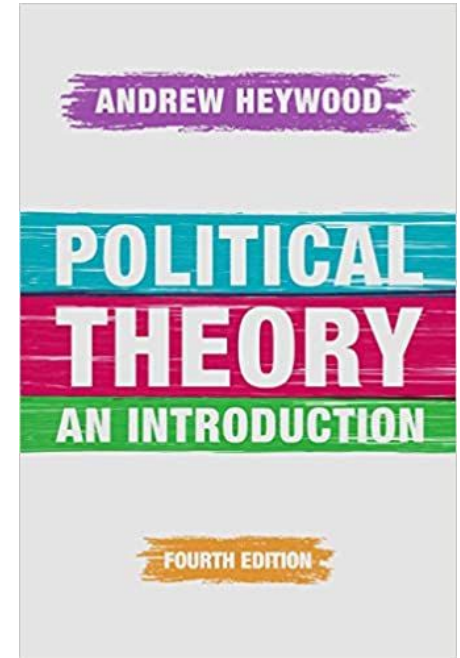
Advisor: Mrs. Vaknin

Why Political Theory?

- I HAVE ALWAYS HAD A PASSION FOR POLITICS AND THE WAY IN WHICH THEY WORK. I HAVE DONE VOLUNTEER WORK WITH POLITICIANS AND HAVE ATTENDED PROTESTS/RALLIES.
- TAKING CLASSES SUCH AS AP GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS, WORLD HISTORY, AND CURRENTLY AP EUROPEAN HISTORY FURTHERED MY INTEREST.
- I SPECIFICALLY WANTED TO FOCUS ON POLITICAL THEORY BECAUSE IT GIVES A GOOD BACKGROUND TO THE WORKINGS OF GOVERNMENT.
- I WILL BE STUDYING POLITICAL SCIENCE AT GEORGE WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY IN THE FALL.

What I've Learned

- I BEGAN MY STUDY READING CHAPTERS FROM "POLITICAL THEORY: AN INTRODUCTION"
- I READ AND DISCUSSED CHAPTERS THAT DEALT WITH, AUTHORITY, LEGITIMACY, DIFFERENT POLITICAL IDEOLOGIES, ETC.
- AS I WAS LOOKING FOR OTHER TEXTS TO INCORPORATE I EMAILED THE POLITICAL THEORY PROFESSOR AT GW WHO GAVE ME A FANTASTIC LIST OF READING TO CONSIDER.
- THE MOST IMPACTFUL PIECE I READ WAS "A THEORY OF A MILITANT DEMOCRACY" WHICH COVERED HOW DEMOCRACIES CAN BE UNDEMOCRATIC FOR THE SAKE OF THE COMMON GOOD.



Currently



- THROUGHOUT THE STUDY, Mrs. Vaknin and I found ourselves constantly comparing the readings to current events.
- We decided to write an essay on the future of America under Joe Biden and how it relates to what I studied. For instance, how current events can relate to the reconstruction period.
- We felt it would tie in everything we had covered as well as allowing us to analyze current events with a new perspective
- A few weeks ago we hosted a zoom meeting where three of my prior teachers gave me feedback on the essay.

Thank you!



- I'D LIKE TO THANK THE ADMINISTRATION AND BOE FOR APPROVING MY INDEPENDENT STUDY
- THIS WAS A WONDERFUL EXPERIENCE AND I LEARNED A LOT AND WILL CONTINUE TO EXPLORE TOPICS SIMILAR TO POLITICAL THEORY
- I HOPE YOU ALL HAVE A WONDERFUL END TO THE YEAR AND THANK YOU FOR MAKING HIGH SCHOOL A GOOD EXPERIENCE FOR THE STUDENTS OF WEST ESSEX



The Beauty of Fast Food Culture

Hannah Ng

Advisor: Mu You

Overview of the Course



- Chinese and American government actions to control COVID-19
- History of diplomacy between China and America
- Possible future relationships between the two countries through competition and partnership
- People's pursuit of Chinese dreams and my own pursuit of American dreams
- The future me - VIKYD (A possible business endeavor)
- The positive influence of idols and what we can learn from them
- The taboos in cultures and how to facilitate better business environments
- What the American government can learn from the Chinese mega infrastructure projects in the past decades
- Interchanging of cultures during the Chinese major holidays
- Small businesses in China (e.g. The beverage market research)

Overview of the Final Project



- Comparison between Chinese and American Fast Food
 - History has greatly influenced the current situations between China and America
 - What are the connections between the two countries that can facilitate a better relationship between them?
- 求同存异 - Chinese culture preserves the core of their culture while accepting many different other cultures, which is similar to America's melting pot.
- Fast food culture is a great representation of relationships between the two countries

The Origins of Both Countries' Fast Food Cultures

- In 1921, White Castle opened the first fast food restaurant in the US
- In 1987, KFC became the first fast food restaurant to open in China.
- The Fast-Food Restaurants industry in China generated an estimated \$157.3 billion in 2020. It also has an annual revenue growth rate of 3.8%



Fast Food Culture in the US v. in China

Similarities:

- Speed
- Chain Restaurants
- Some parts of the menu

Differences:

- The food itself
- The way of cooking
- Utensils
- In China, fast food chains are often endorsed by celebrities





The Influence Both Countries' Fast Food Cultures had on Each Other

China:

- Quality
- Consistency
- Rebranding to become higher-quality
- Fast food restaurants with Chinese origins started opening up
 - Home Original Chicken - pork meatballs, hot and sour fish, etc.
 - Dico's - Fried chicken
 - Real Kung Fu - Rice bowl meal sets

America:

- Most people know how to use chopsticks
- Chinese fast food restaurants started becoming very popular
 - Panda Express - Fusion of American and Chinese food chain restaurant
 - Xi'an Famous - Chain restaurant in NY



永和豆浆



umake.me Hungry



东方即白
大家乐



口福套餐

新

秘制照烧鸡腿饭+虫草花炖鸡汤+生菜

盐酥鸡扒饭+虫草花炖鸡汤+生菜

dico's 德克士

Fusion - Panda Express

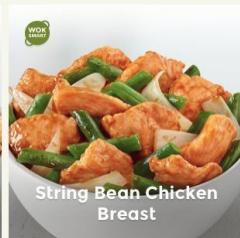


ENTREES

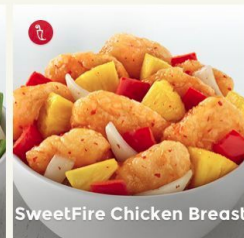
Panda Express



Orange Chicken



String Bean Chicken Breast



SweetFire Chicken Breast



Kung Pao Chicken



Mushroom Chicken



Black Pepper Chicken



Grilled Teriyaki Chicken



Broccoli Beef



Shanghai Angus Steak



Beijing Beef



Honey Walnut Shrimp



Eggplant Tofu

Authentic Chinese Food



Orange Chicken



Chinese BBQ Pork



Kung Pao Chicken



Black Pepper Pork

Fusion - Panda Express

Top 500 Year	2020
2019 U.S. Sales (\$000,000)	\$3,946
YOY Sales Change	12.0%
2019 U.S. Units	2,209
YOY Unit Change	4.9%
Segment	Fast Casual
Menu Category	Asian/Noodle

Fusion - KFC

宵夜食堂肯德基

川香燃辣撸串桶

鸡心 4串 | 鸡脆 2串
牛肚 1串 | 木耳 2串
油豆腐 2串 | 黄喉 1串

香卤系列

香卤鸡翅尖
香卤鸡心
香卤手撕鸡
香卤鸡脆

APP 订餐立享

中式豪华午餐 ¥15 起

¥15 官保菌菇鸡腿饭 + 鲜柠柠檬红茶 (小杯冻)

¥15 麻婆豆腐鸡腿饭 + 福州鱼丸汤

¥18.5 黄金咖喱鸡扒饭 + 鲜柠柠檬红茶 (小杯冻)

¥23 招牌猪排浓汤面/米线 + 冰茉莉绿茶 (小杯)

¥23 秘制照烧鸡腿饭 + 白玉酸辣汤

产品及包装以实物为准

E ¥20.00 意式肉酱肉丸饭
+ 爽口黑木耳 / 玉米沙拉 / 香甜粟米棒 / 芙蓉鲜蔬汤 / 百事可乐 (中)

F ¥22.00 意式萃蔬烤鸡腿饭
+ 爽口黑木耳 / 玉米沙拉 / 香甜粟米棒 / 芙蓉鲜蔬汤 / 百事可乐 (中)

G ¥26.00 黄金咖喱猪扒饭
+ 爽口黑木耳 / 玉米沙拉 / 香甜粟米棒 / 芙蓉鲜蔬汤 / 百事可乐 (中)

¥6 香菇黑米粥 + 安心油条

¥7 香菇鸡肉粥 + 太阳蛋

¥8 皮蛋瘦肉粥 / 皮蛋烧鸭粥 + 安心油条

Fusion - Pizza Hut



Bacon wrapped squid and shrimp pizza



Sichuan Beef Pizza



Durian pizza



Purple Potato Crust

Independent Study: Eastern Influences on Western Development

Taylor Sindle and
Gillian Rodgers
Advisor: Mrs. Blanchard

Marking Periods 1 and 2



- Overview of European History from the Renaissance to French Revolution
 - The Black Death
 - Joan of Arc
 - Reformation
 - La Malinche
 - Slavery connecting Eastern and Western World
 - Sally Hemings
 - Reign of Terror

End of Marking Period 2

Independent Research:

Topic Selection: race relations in apartheid South Africa and current United States.

- More specifically: the Trojan Horse Massacre of 1985 connected to police brutality in the United States and how mass media acts in spreading awareness



Marking Period 3

Apartheid

- The Apartheid Laws were a system of legislation in South Africa that upheld segregationist policies against non-white citizens. Started after the National Party gained power of the country in 1948
- Numerically, whites were the minority, but they controlled the country
- Apartheid resulted in violence against black people, displacement of black families who were then forced into segregated areas, and banned interracial relationships (just to name a few)
- Ended in 1994 when Nelson Mandela and the democratic party gained the Presidency



Marking Period 3



In Depth Research on Trojan Horse Massacre

- Student protesters against Apartheid would gather in Capetown at Alexander Sinton High School
- On October 15, 1985, members of security forces shot and killed 3 black students. Police officers hid behind crates in a South African Railways truck. When they reached the protest, the police came up from behind the crates and opened fired, killing three black students- ages 21, 15, 11
- At the same time, police forces also violently shut down a gathering of other protesting youth. These two events became known as the Trojan Horse Massacre
- EVERYTHING was caught on camera

What I learned / Takeaways

Trojan Horse Mass

- Footage was shown all over the world and caused outrage
- I connected this to police brutality against black people in America and how the footage of these events are broadcasted all over the world
 - The George Floyd murder caused international protests
- No matter where you stand politically, these events are hard to ignore because footage forces us consume them over and over
- Spreads awareness and allows people to come to their own conclusions without any influence from new sources, political figures, etc.

Overall takeaways:

- Unfortunately, similar events are mirrored on both sides of the world
- We must learn from the history that occurs in the East so that tragic events like this stop occurring



End of Marking Period 2

- Began to research how medicine differs across the world and how treatment has changed over time
- Focused specifically on how traditional, herbal/non-medicinal methods were once used in Asia, and are now being used in conjunction with newer, more advanced medical practices.
- How eastern medicine has influenced western medicine
- How eastern and western medicine have been used hand in hand more frequently in recent years

Eastern Medicine

- Eastern Medicine
 - Known as Oriental or traditional Chinese medicine- oldest codified system of medicine in the world
 - Includes acupuncture, herbal medicine, tai chi, etc.
 - Considers the diagnosis of a patient's Qi (chi).
 - Studies patterns of disharmony/imbalance of the body to diagnose the whole person.



Western Medicine

- Western Medicine
 - Allopathic medicine or conventional medicine.
 - A system of medicine where a patient's diseases or ailments are treated with medicines, surgeries, etc. by doctors and nurses.
 - Stretches back to ancient times, like Eastern medicine. Greeks were the first to look at the body from a biological standpoint.
 - Hippocrates of Cos is often credited as the Father of Western Medicine



Integrative Medicine



- In the US, mental and physical help are often separated, which can lead to incorrect diagnoses
- Fragmented healthcare system
- Social Determinants of Health
 - Maslow's hierarchy of needs
 - Hard to achieve higher level goals past basic needs that are met
 - This theory says that unless one's basic needs are met, good overall health is hard to achieve.
- Holistic Medicine
- Behavioral doctors and other doctors work together to understand physical and mental issues
- Integrative medicine can help people with cancer, persistent pain, chronic fatigue, fibromyalgia and many other conditions better manage their symptoms and improve their quality of life by reducing fatigue, pain and anxiety. Examples of common practices include:
- Not substitutes for conventional medical care

Integrative Medicine (Continued)

- While communist countries like China appear to have integrated medicine, it is separated, fragmented- an acupuncturist will not provide medicine, and a doctor will not provide acupuncture, for example.
- In South Korea, traditional Korean medicine and western methods are used together- students take same classes and are examined together (physiology, pathology, anatomy, etc)
- In China, Korea, India, and Vietnam, colonization diminished traditional ideas, presenting westernized versions instead
- Traditional practice has recently been revived



Eastern Influence on Western Development

- Today, the impact of Eastern traditional medicine on Western medicine has become increasingly relevant
- Especially in the past year, with COVID-19 taking a mental toll on the world, eastern and integrative medicine have been practiced more frequently.
 - More focus has been placed on mental health awareness in recent times, and many people spent quarantine attempting to better themselves and to live healthier lifestyles- eastern medicine promotes these ideas.

Thank you for your support!

West Essex Regional School District

Presentation to the Board of Education

May 10, 2021

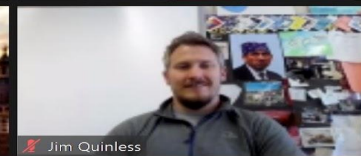


Laura Drago
Instructional Supervisor
Social Studies, World Languages, & ESL
ldrago@westex.org

World Language Faculty



Social Studies Faculty



District Goal:

Increase Student Growth and Achievement

A look at how the Social Studies and World Language departments focused on increasing **student engagement** to promote growth and achievement in a remote/hybrid learning environment.



WWII Navy Nurse Footlocker



Engaging Students with Technology

Piktochart allow students to create digital collections such as the digital foot locker to the left.

Parlay is recently being used as an online platform for online discussions and online socratic seminars

APUSH II P 7 ▾

Cold War Fears

Search participants

Emily Zarr

Bella Barbarito

Noah Decker

4th tap in



New Idea

+

8th tap in



catherine

+

6th tap in



emily

+

4th tap in



Build On

+

9th tap in



Alyssa

+

Virtual Field Trips

US I teachers John Sorrentino and Gary Collucci created virtual field trips for students visiting NJ Revolutionary sites and reporting from them on Zoom.

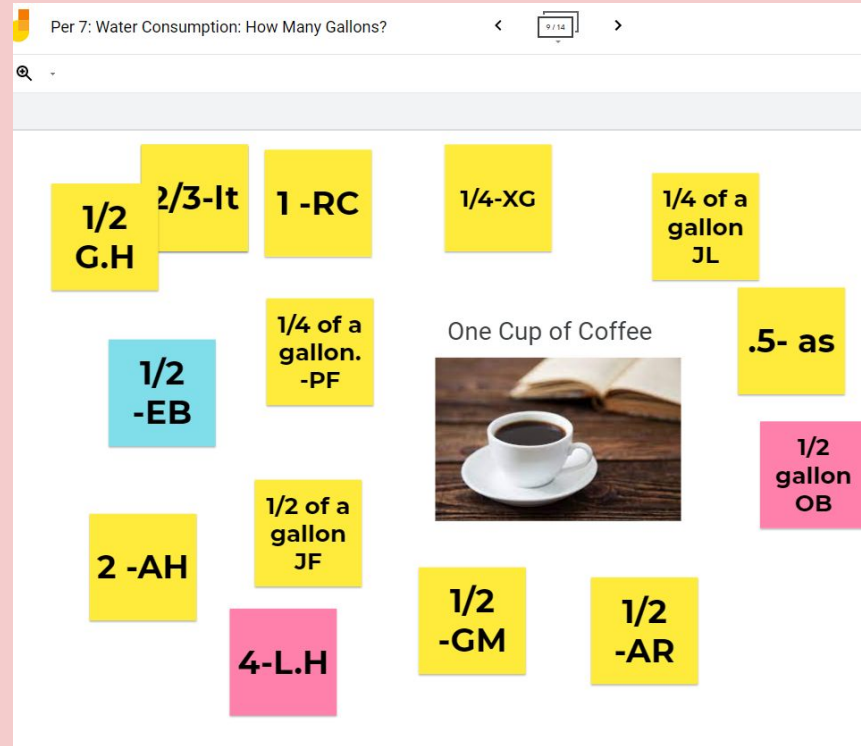
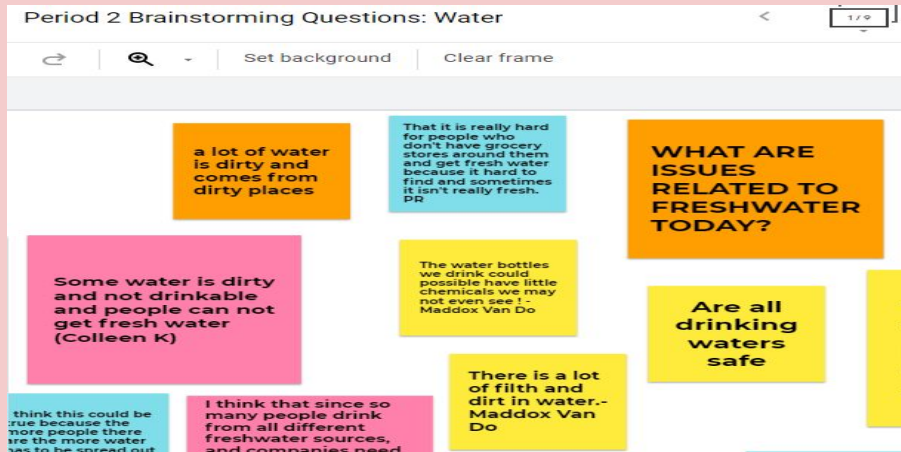


Real World Applications

Collaboration, Critical Thinking

7th grade Jam Board - Google Application

Students learning about water consumption collaborated on a Jamboard. Determining how much water is used to make goods engaging all students in discussion

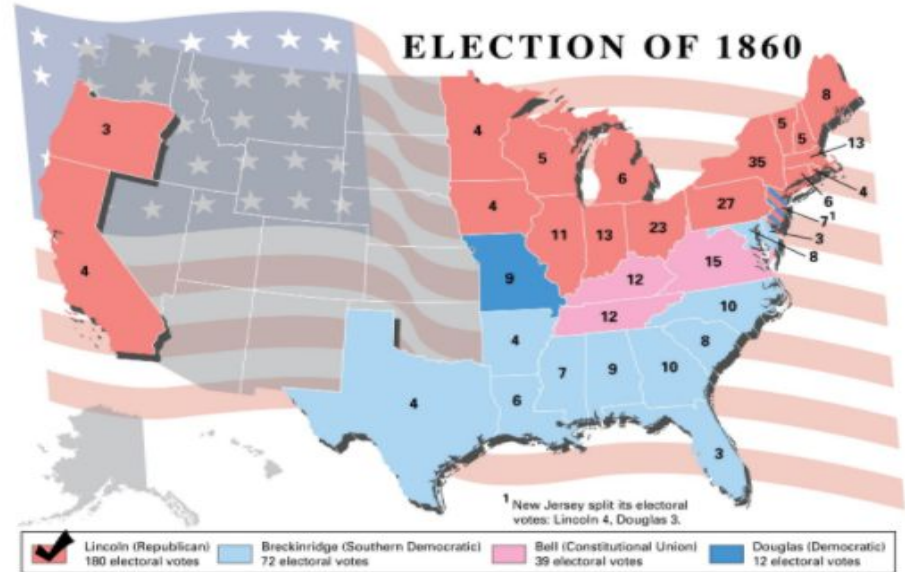


Skills-Based, Standards-Aligned Reading and Interpreting

Causes of the CIVIL WAR DBQ

Students read primary sources and answer critical thinking questions.

Document 8



9. What did the presidential election of 1860 suggest about the political power of the South? (5 points)

Oral Assessments in World Languages



Create speaking assignments and assessments for your students.



Unit 2 Assessment Conversation

created Jan 10, 2020

Assign

Edit

Directions: You will participate in a conversation. First, you will have 1 minute to read a preview of the conversation, including an outline of each turn in the conversation. Afterward, the conversation will begin, following the outline. Each time it is your turn to speak, you will have 20 seconds to record your response. You should participate in the conversation as fully and appropriately as possible.

grabar tu respuesta. Debes participar de la manera mas completa y apropiada posible.



Storytelling in World Languages



Chinese Philosophy




Popular jobs for college students in China & America




Chinese Cuisine

Project-Based Assessments

Virtual presentations - here, students take the role of a Robber Barron or Industrial Giant.

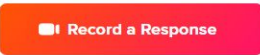
 Flipgrid

 by Caroline Blanchard · November 16, 2020


Progressive Shark Tank

Make sure you start your pitch with "Hello, I am [Insert Progressive's name]..."


Please title your presentations "Progressive Name/Your Name"





22 Responses
426 views · 5 comments · [19.4 hours](#) of engagement




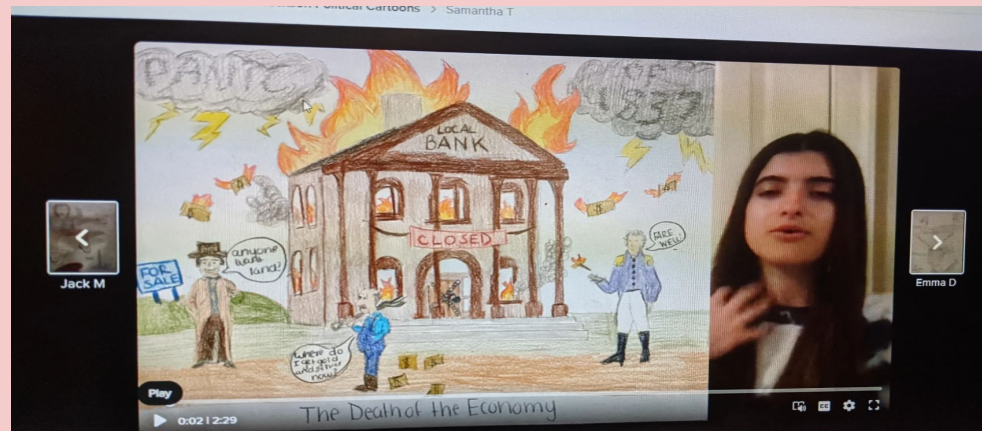
Record a Response



Upton Sinclair - Nico... 
Meat Industry and Political
Reformation



Caroline M 
Samuel Gompers



Students created Age of Jackson Political Cartoons and presented them on Flip Grid interpreting, applying, understanding to create authentic material.

Authentic Assessments

Creating Podcasts

Students read articles and explained the significance of certain Revolutionary War battles creating podcasts with Flip Grid.

Reporting from the Frontlines: Podcast of the American Revolution



Social Emotional Learning

Cultural Awareness

Appreciation of Culture

-In Spanish classes students participated in a March Madness activity as a celebration of Hispanic culture and language listening to music.

-Students listened to new songs and actively engaged with Spanish culture and language.

-Create excitement for language learning by including Spanish students around the globe.

“La locura de marzo (March madness) was a success! Students learned new vocabulary, learned about cultural icons in the Spanish-speaking world, and most importantly made connections with each other and me. This unit hit the mark on the NJ standards of communication and culture but maybe even more importantly for this school year- it met a deeper social emotional need for the students to feel connected to each other and the curriculum. Many students now have Spanish songs on their personal playlists.”

New Interdisciplinary HS Program

AP Capstone

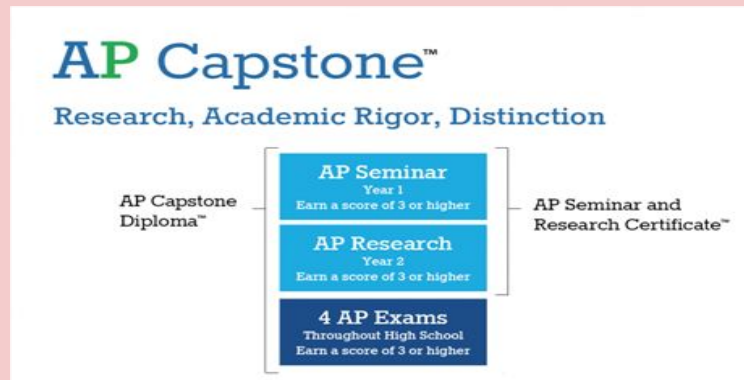
AP Capstone is 2-year diploma program offered through the College Board. The program uses an interdisciplinary approach to develop the critical thinking, research, collaboration, time management, and presentation skills students need for college-level work.

Students who pass the AP Seminar and AP Research exams with a score of 3 or higher and who earn scores of 3 or higher on 4 other AP exams will graduate with an AP Capstone Diploma.

AP Seminar, taught this year by Caroline Blanchard, focused on teaching students how to think critically and conduct credible research. Students were required to complete two Performance Tasks for the AP exam.

Topics chosen by students included:

- How should ethical, scientific, and historical considerations guide the United States in distributing Covid vaccinations?
- Should NCAA athletes be compensated?
- How does the foster care system in American impact children's future well-being?



Extra-curricular

West Essex Quiz Bowl Team Qualified for the American Quiz Bowl League National Championship placing in the top 25% qualifying for Nationals in June.

Quiz Bowl Team members:

Dante Ragusa
Abhi Challa
Gianna Lodato
Aaron Itzhaki
Jacob Brosse
Alexandra Wrocenski
Samara Schiffman
Richard Li
Jonah Ng



Seal of Biliteracy

Congratulations to these 10 students who demonstrated proficiency on approved testing for the Seal of Biliteracy:

Chinese: Hannah Ng

French: Gabriel Ruzsala

Latin: Ethan Zinn

Italian: Alessia Contuzzi

Polish: Andrew Boksza

Spanish: Lea Bachenheimer, Chelsea Bodesinsky,

Clark Molfetta, and Alyssa Rodríguez

Ukrainian: Maria Christina Kardash



Social Studies & World Language

Honor Societies Induction Ceremonies



January 20th, 2021
West Essex Inducted 21 students into
Rho Kappa
National Social Studies Honor
Society

Monday, May 17th
World Language teachers will
induct 98 students into the World
Language Honor Societies.



Alumni

Jason Michael Morganti

United States Legislative Correspondent



Jason Morganti mastered AP US I & II and AP American Government and Politics at WE.

He graduated Summa Cum Laude with a degree in Political Science from The George Washington University

He is currently working as a legislative correspondent for a member of the United States House of Representatives.

- Legislative Correspondents brief the members they work for
- News briefs from reading multiple sources
- Drafting letters on proposed bills
- Providing research to representative on topics
- Take calls for the representative They try to respond to every concern that they receive from constituents.

A Significant amount of reading and writing!!

Alumni

Caroline Lanfrank



Caroline will be graduating from the University of Miami this month in the top 10% of her class.

She studied AP Economics at West Essex where she states her interest in studying Economics comes from.

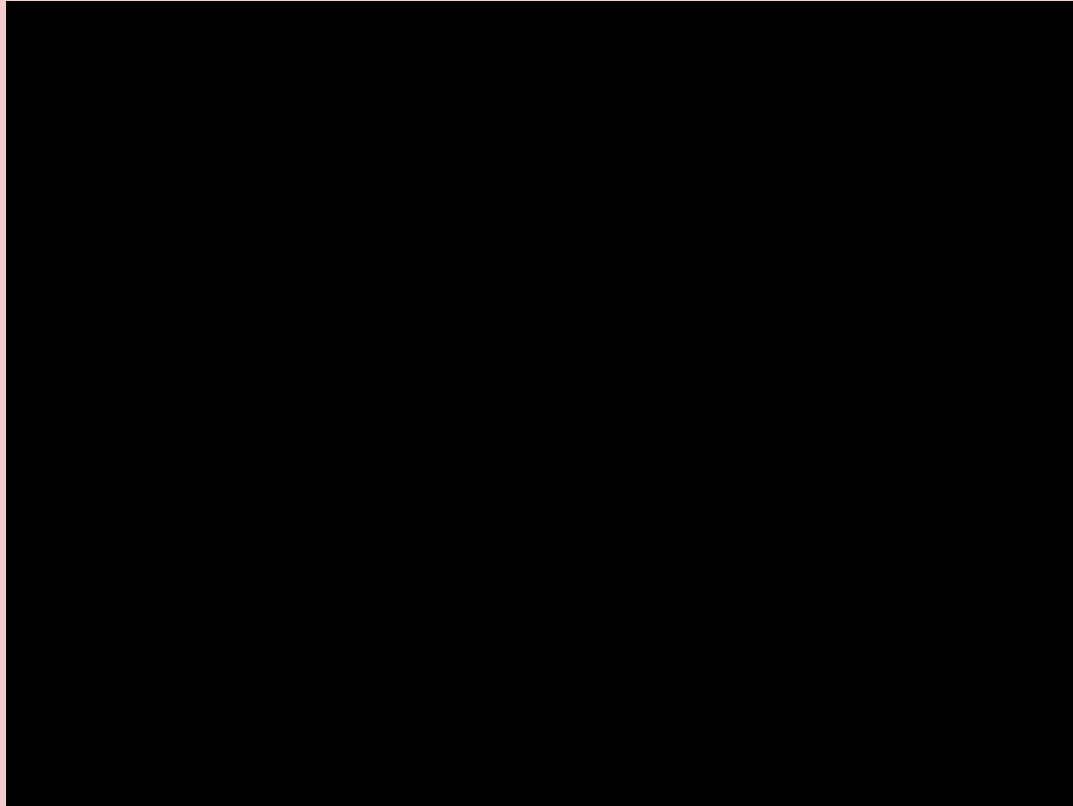
She was named the "Most Outstanding Student in the Economics Major" for the class of 2021.

Caroline is moving to New York to work for Citi Bank as a Treasury & Trade Solutions Analyst.

She has been inducted into the Beta Gamma Sigma and Rho Lambda honor societies, and is also in the honors school at Miami (and has been since she was a freshman).

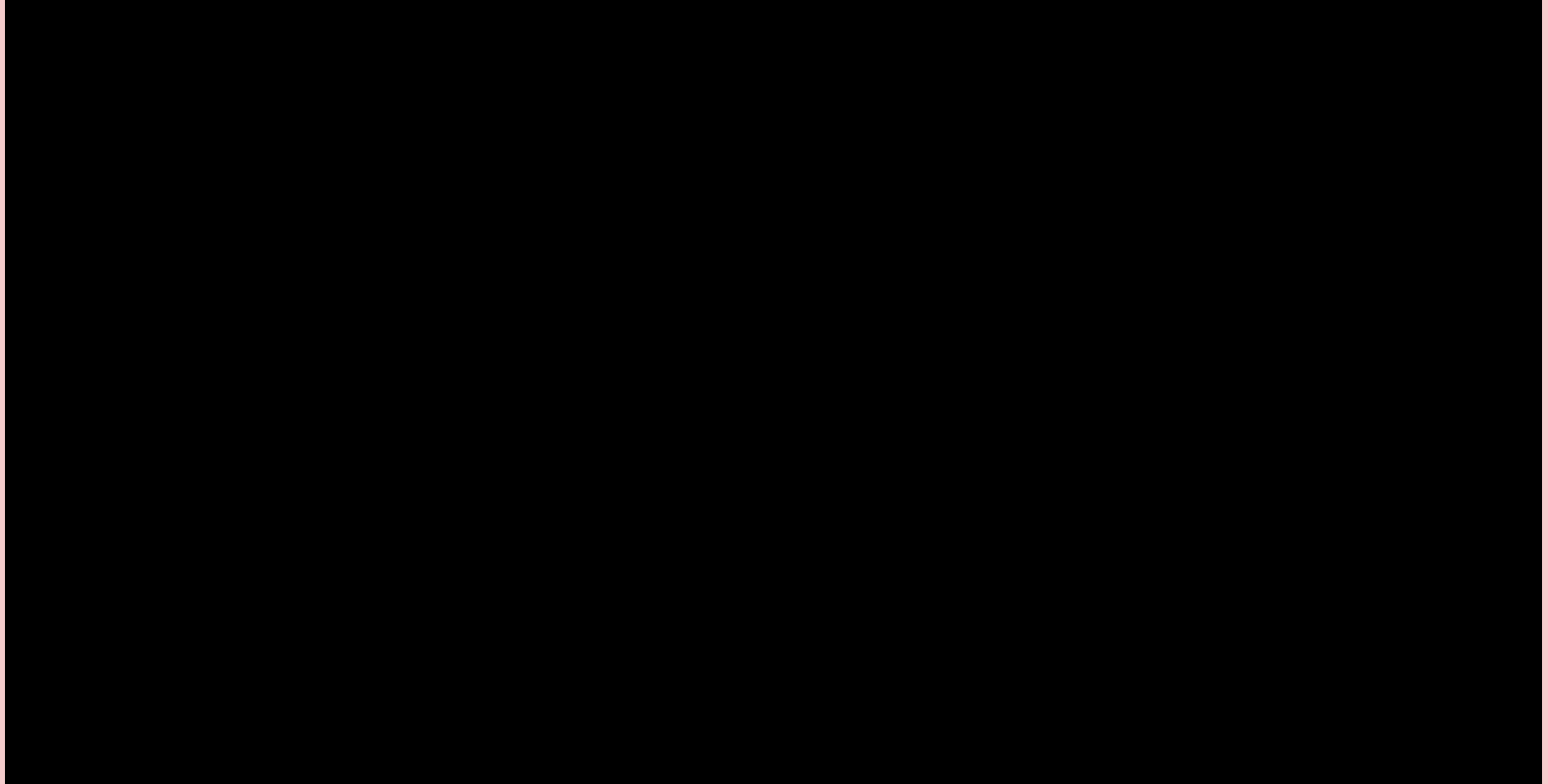
Alumni

Jessica Thies



Alumni

Spencer Cowen





Thank you!!
Superintendent Damion Macioci
The Board of Education
The administrative team
Faculty and Staff

Director of Curriculum Report

Assessments

- In-Class Assessments - measuring students' mastery of content and skills
 - Academic Integrity
 - Variety (traditional, inquiry-based, PBAs, open notes, oral, online, authentic assessments...)
 - Smaller scale, more frequent when possible
 - Varies by subject area
- Pre-assessments and post-assessments to identify gaps and measure growth
- Diagnostic/standardized assessments
 - MAP - MS Math and ELA
 - LinkIt - HS pilot in Math, ELA; expanding pilot to Science, Social Studies
 - Others include Albert, IXL, Achieve3000, Lingt, Newsela, Edmentum
- Data Teams - 20+ members including teachers and administrators from MS & HS

Director of Curriculum Report

Extra Help Opportunities

Your child's teachers are available for extra help after school each day and during class time on virtual Wednesdays. Additional opportunities include:

- Middle School
 - Knight Squad (after school for struggling students)
- High School
 - Math Lab (during lunch for all students)
 - Writing Workshop (during lunch for all students)
- District-wide
 - NHS Peer Tutoring (during lunch and after school for all students)

Director of Curriculum Report

Summer School

MS and Special Ed. summer programs will be extended to 6 weeks.

- Special Education Extended School Year (ESY) - In-person, June 28 - Aug. 5
- MS Summer Improvement Program - In-person, June 28 - Aug. 5
 - Math, ELA, Science, SS
- High School
 - For Credit Recovery
 - Educere online courses - asynchronous instruction w/ individualized guidance and monitoring provided by an Educere “learning coach”
 - Option to attend in-person for supervision/accountability
 - For Advancement - institution must offer synchronous instruction; all courses must be pre-approved by district admin.

Director of Curriculum Report

Latest Media Rankings

Niche.com

District Overall

- 2021 - #22
- 2020 - #41
- 2019 - #26

Safety

- 2021 - #2
- 2020 - #3
- 2019 - #3

Athletics

- 2021 - #1
- 2020 - #1
- 2019 - #8

US News & World Report

High Schools in NJ

- 2021 - #63
- 2020 - #110
- 2019 - #149

Principal's Report

Gina Donlevie

- ***Teacher & Staff Appreciation***
- ***WEuKNIGHT (7th Grade Activity)***
- ***WE Lead Mentor Applications (Class of 2026)***
- ***Power House Studios (8th Grade Activity)***

Principal's Report

Caesar Diliberto

- End of Year Events
 - Senior Ball - Tuesday, June 1 at The Legacy Castle
 - Junior Prom - Wednesday, June 16 at The Legacy Castle - currently Juniors ONLY
 - Graduation - Tuesday, June 22 - full class, currently 3 guests per graduate
- National Merit Scholarship Program
 - **Semi-finalist:** Julia Zhang
 - **Commended Scholars:** Lea Bachenheimer, Jonah Finkelstein, Alec Fox, Greg Gallagher, Felicia Lichtenstein, Sabah Naveed, Hannah Ng, Ethan Rodgers, Gabriel Ruszala, Morgan Sindle and Serena Vu
- NJSIAA Student Athlete - Kate Mastrangelo
- SEC Student Athletes - Vincent Panzarino and Arianna Lee
- Field Days - May 12 (11th), May 19 (10th), June 9 (12th), June 16 (9th)