May 2019

Dear Humanities student:

Get ready for one of the most challenging and rewarding academic endeavors of your life. You are about to encounter some of the most famous and influential minds of the Western world—Homer, Plato, Machiavelli, Locke, Shakespeare, Milton, and many more. In short, you are about to become one of the most culturally literate high school graduates around.

One of the reasons that this upcoming year will be so challenging is because you will not only be learning but teaching, too. Perhaps more than any other class at East, Humanities affords you the opportunity to take on the role of teacher. We will all be responsible for teaching one another. So, in order to begin our sharing and learning, please read the following work:

_The Righteous Mind: Why Good People Are Divided by Politics and Religion_ (paperback edition published February 2013) by the moral psychologist Jonathan Haidt

This novel is available at the library, on Amazon, or at your local bookstore. You will be responsible for this material during the first week of school.

While you don’t have to keep a journal, do read the book with a pen or highlighter in hand. Highlight or scribble in the margins anywhere a passage intrigues, bewilders, or challenges you. Put your heart into the book, read it carefully, read it joyfully. I have two primary goals in mind for this summer reading:

1. You will, quite simply, **enjoy** a well-written book that challenges everyday assumptions about reason and intuition.
2. You will begin to think about some of the **themes** and **central questions** that we will explore in the upcoming year. This book will explore why you hold your moral beliefs, and why many people disagree with you. It will also challenge some of the philosophical arguments we study in the course, including Socrates (through Plato) and John Locke.

We also encourage you to read an additional book from the Sophomore through Senior summer reading list. You can find this list of titles on the Glenbard East website. Tap on the library link to see all the summer reading information. The optional novels are available at local bookstores, at public libraries, and online in Sora. You may contact us with questions via email if the need arises.

_The Righteous Mind_ will be available to borrow in Sora as of July 1st. Note that the books from Sora are on digital loan so you will only have them for six weeks before needing to re-borrow. You can always see your notes when you re-borrow, but may want to download your notes once you finish the book for use in August. Additionally, this information is posted for students on the Glenbard East website under the Summer Reading link.

We hope that you have a wonderful summer. We look forward to our year of learning together.

Sincerely,
Mr. Novak and Ms. Gunn

Class of 2020