Dear Students,

Welcome to AP U.S. Government and Politics!

This course provides a college-level, nonpartisan introduction to key concepts, ideas, institutions, policies, interactions, roles, and behaviors that characterize the constitutional system and political culture of the United States. We will study U.S. foundational documents, Supreme Court decisions, and other text and visuals to gain an understanding of the relationships and interactions among political institutions, processes, and behaviors.

A critical part of your success in our course will come from your knowledge of the United States Constitution and its 27 amendments. This summer assignment is designed to help you begin to approach and understand a sweeping, complex, and daunting document. You can choose to wait and complete these activities during the first week of school or be proactive and get the work done now. Remember, there will be other work in our course once the school year begins. If you are also taking AP Lit, AP Human Geo, AP Psych, AP Research, or AP Calc (or perhaps a combination of these), you will be very busy. You will benefit from starting your year ahead.

This assignment will be officially assigned on the first day of school and due the following week. The assessment associated with this material will be one of the first summative assessments of the new school year.

If you have any questions, contact Mrs. Burns (burnsmp@pwcs.edu). We look forward to meeting you in August.

Have a great summer!

Mrs. Burns & Mr. Foley
Summer Assignment: United States Constitution Flashcards

Required Materials:
- 3” x 5” index cards (Spiral-bound or on a ring)
- Interactive Constitution (available at www.constitutioncenter.org)

Directions: Create a flash card for each of the following parts of the United States Constitution, summarizing the general purpose/subject of each. Use the guiding information below to help you determine what to include in your summary.

- The Preamble → What are the 6 goals stated in the Preamble?
- Article 1: The Legislative Branch
- Article 2: The Executive Branch
- Article 3: The Judicial Branch
- Article 4: Full Faith and Credit
- Article 5: Amending the Constitution
- Article 6: The Supreme Law of the Land
- Article 7: Ratification
- 1st Amendment: Freedom of Expression
- 2nd Amendment: Right to Bear Arms
- 3rd Amendment: Quartering Troops
- 4th Amendment: Unreasonable Searches & Seizures
- 5th Amendment: Due Process
- 6th Amendment: Juries in Criminal Trials
- 7th Amendment: Juries in Civil Trials
- 8th Amendment: Bail & Punishment
- 9th Amendment: Unenumerated Rights
- 10th Amendment: States’ Rights
- 11th Amendment: Suing States
- 12th Amendment: Picking the President
- 13th Amendment: Abolishing Slavery
- 14th Amendment: Due Process & Equal Protection
- 15th Amendment: Voting Rights
- 16th Amendment: Income Tax
- 17th Amendment: Direct Election of Senators
- 18th Amendment: Prohibition
- 19th Amendment: Women’s Suffrage
- 20th Amendment: Lame Ducks
- 21st Amendment: Repeal
- 22nd Amendment: Presidential Term Limits
- 23rd Amendment: D.C. Voting
- 24th Amendment: Poll Taxes
- 25th Amendment: Presidential Succession
- 26th Amendment: Voting Age
- 27th Amendment: Congressional Pay