June 2022

Dear Students:

Greetings! Welcome to English 3 Honors for the 2022-2023 school year. This course is often seen as a bridge to AP Literature, SUPA, and ACE, which are course options with college credit available during senior year. Consequently, this course is more rigorous and will require you to read, analyze, and write across multiple genres: short stories, novels, poetry, essays, speeches, and excerpts from memoirs, biographies, and autobiographies.

Because this course is seen as a pre-AP class, and because of the rigorous expectations in these higher-level classes, one of the course goals is for you to walk into a college-level classroom with a greater sense of mastery in reading, writing, speaking, and critical thinking. For the summer reading assignment, please choose one of the following books to read: *Just Mercy* by Bryan Stevenson or *A Lesson Before Dying* by Ernest J. Gaines. You are required to read one of these titles over the summer because of the intense nature of this course. Both books are available at no cost to you on Sora, accessible through the WPHS library website. You can find instructions on how to use Sora by going to the following link: https://wphslibrary.libguides.com/c.php?g=154422.

To demonstrate you have read the book, please write us a letter or an essay about your reflection and reaction to it. In your written piece, tell us what you enjoyed about the novel, and discuss the parallels between your book of choice and the Black Lives Matter Movement and/or modern race relations in America. This writing piece should be a minimum of three paragraphs. Please be prepared to submit this written response on the first day of school. Here are some possible questions to help you express your thoughts and opinions:

- What is the Black Lives Matter Movement?
- What is your opinion of the Black Lives Matter Movement?
- Is racism still an issue in America today?
- Will America ever resolve the issue(s) of racism?
- How does the novel you read address race and/or race relations in America?

In September, you will be asked to demonstrate and apply your knowledge of the book and its connection to modern American race relations by discussing specific details from the text.

We look forward to meeting you in September! Have a safe and healthy summer.

Sincerely,
Jessica Livingston
Patricia Melcher