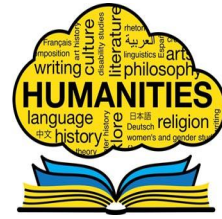


West Orange High School

Institute for the Humanities IH 9 & IH 10 Newsletter



May 2025

Honors English 9 IH

Janine Sullivan, Language Arts Teacher, IH Program Coordinator

This is our final newsletter of the year. It has been a pleasure teaching your children, and I am confident that they will continue to excel in IH next year. To celebrate all they have accomplished, our final trip will be to Lincoln Center to see the Metropolitan Opera's performance of Puccini's masterpiece *La Boheme*. Look for permission slips to come home in the next two weeks.

We began our study of Shakespeare with his sonnets, discussing how the passion and sincerity we see in his poems was a direct response to the "courtly love" conceit of the Middle Ages. As we begin Shakespeare's *Romeo and Juliet*, students observe how Romeo evolves from a courtly lover into a far different character. In the course of our unit, students will perform scenes in our classroom, evaluate performances by professional actors, and engage in close readings of the beautiful and complex language of the play. Later this marking period, we begin our interdisciplinary unit on World Literature. Students will analyze contemporary short stories and poems from writers born in Africa, Latin America, Asia, and the Middle East. The unit will culminate with our last Socratic Seminar, where both sections of IH will come together in the LMC and answer original questions drafted by their peers.

Right before we began our Shakespeare unit, we were lucky to welcome The Shakespeare Theatre of New Jersey to our auditorium last month. The troop performed an abridged version of *Romeo and Juliet* for IH 9 and 10 students. The reviews are in:

Throughout the whole performance, the actors were all extremely engaged and kept the show interesting. They were able to bring an entire world to life with just one movable set piece, which was very impressive. The actors who played 2+ roles were also very interesting to see perform, and it was really amazing seeing them switch between roles with not even a scene in between their character changes.

-Lilah Rae Brown

I really enjoyed [the] performance of Romeo and Juliet. As someone unfamiliar with Shakespeare I was super surprised with the amount of humor and emotion the story conveyed. I also thought the actors were so talented and beautifully portrayed the tragically beautiful love story.

-Mimi Deer

-Apollo Hooks

-Leah Klimek

-Guershna Lovaincy

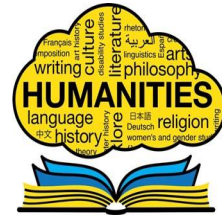
-Soleil Castillo

-Kyley Cherubin

-Sal Pierre

-Justin Frederic

Timothy Miskimon, Social Studies Teacher



We have come to the end of a busy school year. Throughout the second half of the year, the students in Honors Modern World History have been exploring various regions of the world, including the Middle East, Africa, Latin America, and Asia. With each region, the students have been exposed predominantly to events that are currently in the news. The intent of this approach to global studies is to give the students a greater understanding of the world they live in today. In addition, we have engaged in many anthropological studies as the students have learned more about cultures from around the world. The intent for this has been to create a greater appreciation for the cultural diversity that exists in order to dispel the conflict that grows due to cultural differences. As we prepare to begin our final regional unit on Asia, the students will be completing their final DBQ assessment focusing on the impacts of poverty on human society. In addition, the students will be preparing for their final PBA/joint-IH project, which is a Socratic Seminar focusing on contemporary world literature. It has been an absolute pleasure working with your children this year. Have a wonderful summer!

Honors English 10 IH

Elicia Baker, Language Arts Teacher

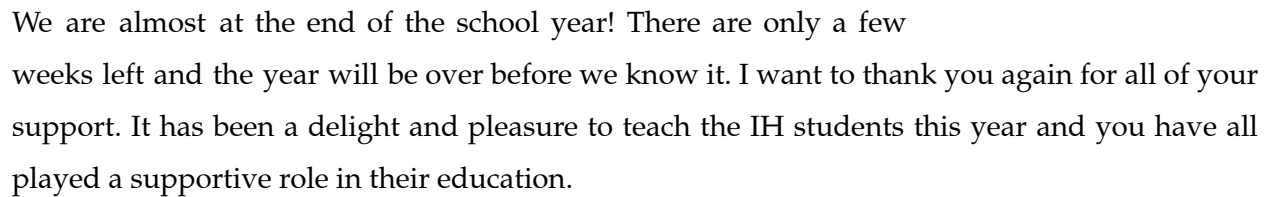


Hello and Happy Belated Mother's day to all of the IH moms!

We finished our unit on Duality of Human Nature and the students had to write a literary analysis that identified a characteristic of human nature in the text and complete an ethnography project that they are presenting this week. We will start the Pursuit of Justice unit next week and discuss the elements of drama and the background information about the playwright, Lorraine Vivian Hansberry. The students will complete an anticipation guide during the introductory activity where we will analyze seven statements about the topics related to the text, answer specific questions about the discussion, and understand how this task will set the stage for the play, *A Raisin in the Sun*. Racism, resilience, stress, housing discrimination, assimilationism, and the American dream are some of the topics that will be discussed during this unit. The students will complete a topic tracker and group project where they will create a scene for their own play based on a social issue that was discussed in the text.

Since this is our last newsletter for the school year, I just wanted to say that it was a pleasure teaching the IH students. Thank you for working with me to help educate your child. The students put an enormous amount of effort into this program and it definitely showed throughout the academic year. I wish each student the best and I hope your family has a relaxing and enjoyable summer! ☺

Wilson Du, Social Studies Teacher

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We are midway through Unit 5, which encompasses the study of the Civil War. We will soon be entering the final unit (Reconstruction, the West, and the Gilded Age). The last two units are vital in understanding how post-Civil War history still reverberates through society today.

Sincerely, Mr. Du

Rachel Rosen, School Counselor/IH Committee

