

PHS Faculty-

Over the past 2 years, I have worked with members of the English Department and the PHS Site Council regarding the English Language Arts review. While many topics have surfaced, the concept of an AP or Honors Junior English course has been heavily discussed. The concept of an AP or Honors Junior English course is complicated. There is no definitive right or wrong about the adoption of this course. I believe this is why the department and the community have not been able to reach consensus over the years.

As we continue to discuss English Language Arts during this curriculum review, it is crucial that I make a decision regarding the AP or Honors Junior English in order for us to continue to plan for future changes/adoptions. After much thought, I have decided to recommend to the Superintendent and School Board that we adopt an AP or Honors Junior English course to compliment our current English 5-6 for the 11-12 school year. This was not an easy decision. The issues surrounding this course are complicated and complex. Ultimately though I felt that it is in the best interest of our students to offer this course for the following reasons:

- There are students at Piedmont High School who are eager for the rigor and depth that this course can provide.
- This course will expand the course offerings in the PHS English Department without expanding the overall footprint of Piedmont High and without costing additional FTE.
- This course will offer additional choice to those students with a passion in the humanities.
- For those students who choose to enroll, this course will enhance their transcript and serve them in the competitive college admissions process.

Over the next few months, I will work with the English Department to develop a detailed course proposal for the Superintendent and school board. The planning guide for the 11-12 school year will include language outlining this course as an option for juniors, but will also contain an asterisk indicating that the formal adoption of this course is still pending board approval. I will also work with the English Department to determine if we are developing an AP English Composition course or an Honors English 5-6 course.

Sincerely,

Randall Booker
Principal