5-10-19

Dear Student,

Congratulations on signing up for and being selected to be in the 2020-2021 AP European History class. This is an elective course with a College Board mandated curriculum and a May AP exam date. As such, the workload is heavy and the pace fast.

There is also a required summer reading assignment for this class (which will count as one of the two mandated outside readings). All students are to read the book *Sapiens: A Brief History of Humankind* by Yuval Noah Harari, which is readily available at local libraries, bookstores, or via Amazon. Students also are to take reading notes on the text and share them with me using Google Docs if at all possible. This is a non-fiction work, so the notes should be summary notes of the author’s main arguments with critique thereof. There is not a specified format, although since most authors write from notes/outline, you are trying to more or less reverse the process. I do not have a length maximum, although you lose the effectiveness of the exercise if you write too much. The minimum is that which is necessary to glean what is significant concerning the author’s arguments. I suggest reading each chapter with a pencil or highlighter, marking it up as you go, and then going back and putting it into note form. If you want to try a chapter and share it with me I would be glad to assess. These notes are not like the sketchbook entries for the other summer reading. I am not interested in your feelings, just a summary and critique of Mr. Harari’s arguments. **All notes are to be submitted to me via email or hard copy by noon on the first day of class and will count as your first graded assignment for the class.** No reading, no notes, no hard feelings; but no enrollment in the course.

Please feel free to contact me at rmarshall@stfrancisschool.org if you have any questions or concerns. I will be in and out of town this summer, but should be able to get back to you within a reasonable amount of time.

I look forward to teaching you next year.

Sincerely,

Dr. Marshall
History Teacher