**Poverty in America – May 31**

**Overview**

While this is not the end of the year anyone expected, I hope that you will make the most of the opportunities coming up. With that said, I have important reminders for seniors, updates for everyone else and some final thoughts as our year comes to a close. Please take time to review all the information!

**9th – 11th Graders**

* **Grading Guidance:** Our school has posted the [Final Grading Guidance for 9th-11th graders](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1iEDaKcD5Vvu4JZk5IIDJe6OcyQpXR9W4/view) on the class website. Please take time to carefully review the document. Two important items to note:
  + “Based on clarifying information provided by DPS…students and families should note that if a student’s final cumulative grade (F1) is higher than the S1 or S2 grade, Jordan teachers will update the lower grade (S1 or S2) to match the F1.”
  + “Additionally, the deadline to complete the Grade Selection form has been extended to June 7…Students will also have the opportunity during the first quarter of the Fall 2020 Semester to revisit their choices.”
* **Summer Assignments –** Per DPS policy, there will be no required summer class for ANY class as we head into the 2020-2021 academic year. We will post optional enrichment activities for the summer that you can choose to complete. Nothing, however, will be collected OR graded.
* **Questions** – If you have questions about your grades, please email me. We have a faculty meeting tomorrow regarding grades. Any new updates, not already provided, will be posted to the class website.

**12th Graders**

* As you know, our Graduation Celebration will take place on Thursday June 11. The celebration will begin at 9am and will be broken up into three parts based on the letter of your last name.
* It is imperative that you take time to watch the [Graduation Instructions and Senior Reminders](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6d21tXfbK1c&feature=youtu.be) and follow the instructions!
* Additional information for the Class of 2020 can be found at [THIS LINK](https://www.dpsnc.net/Page/4580).

**Final Thoughts (Humor Me!)**

At the end of every school year, I take time to reflect on the year and share some thoughts regarding the future. Unfortunately, COVID-19 will not allow me to do that in person. With that said, there are a few things I would like to share.

First, thank you! It has been both a pleasure and an honor to have been your teacher this year. I love this job because of the interactions with students, the opportunities for discussions, and the ability to laugh everyday – you all were a large part of that this year. Your energy gave me energy. I appreciate you giving me your very best and hope that I did the same for you. I hope that you will consider taking other classes I teach – if you are able to, I look forward to continuing our relationship. If you are not, please know that I am thankful that our paths crossed.

Second, at the end of every year, I share two videos. The first is a 2012 high school commencement address, from Wellesley High School, titled [You Are Not Special](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_lfxYhtf8o4). Don’t misunderstand my intention from the sarcastic title – it is worth viewing. It is a powerful speech. As you will hear him say, “I…hope you've learned enough to recognize how little you know, how little you know now at the moment for today is just the beginning it's where you go from here that matters…I urge you to do whatever you do for no reason other than you love it and believe in its importance resist the easy comforts of complacency, the specious glitter of materialism, the narcotic paralysis of self-satisfaction. Be worthy of your advantages and read, read all the time, read as a matter of principle, as a matter of self-respect. Read as a nourishing staple of life, develop and protect a moral sensibility and demonstrate the character to apply it.”

The second video I share is [The Time You Have in Jellybeans](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BOksW_NabEk). Most students see this as depressing – I disagree. To me it is a call to action. For what it’s worth, I believe you have an obligation to make the world a better place and I challenge you to do so. What do you want to accomplish and how can you impact your surroundings? Reflect on that as the world looks different now. Regardless of what you do, I wish you nothing but the most of the best and the least of the worst. Until then: take the risks, overcome the obstacles, enjoy the journey, and as always - play well with others.

Regards,

**Mr. McDonald**