

## **Mountain View Government and History Academy**

“A recent report by the National Assessment of Educational Progress concluded that only 18% of high school seniors showed a proficiency in their knowledge of American History and 23% were proficient in civics.” (National History Academy) The consequence of years of emphasizing STEM education at the expense of social studies is, students who leave high school with little understanding in civics and government, which consequently creates adults little engaged in the political process and in their communities.

The Mountain View History and Government Academy is designed to target students interested in the social studies and provide them with a richer and deeper experience than the current curriculum requires and provides. The goal is to create students who are civically engaged with a greater understanding of how they can positively impact their community through active political and service participation. The Program will be developed during the 2018-2019 school year and will be implemented the following year in 2019-2020. The base of the program will include the following elements:

**1) 3 Years of History and Government:** Students will be required to take AP US History and AP Government and will have the choice among electives for their third class including AP courses such as Comparative Government/Model UN, AP European History, AP Human Geography, and Defining America. Other electives will be developed for student choice. The three years of study will be completed between their sophomore and senior years in high school allowing recruitment for the academy to take place among Mountain View Freshmen.

**2) Partnership with ASU:** Students will be offered a collegiate experience through a partnership with the ASU SHPRS Department. Professors will visit the Mountain View Campus to work with students and in turn students will visit the ASU campus.

**3) Guest Speakers:** Each quarter a guest speaker in the field of history and government will present to the students on our campus providing them the opportunity to interact with historians, government officials, non-profit agencies, and other social science related people. The focus will be to bring one high profile speaker a year.

**4) Travel Opportunities:** Travel to a variety of history and government related locations will be offered in Arizona, the United States, and abroad. In every three-year cycle, a trip to Washington DC will be included to ensure all students the opportunity to travel to the nation’s capital and each year we will visit the AZ Capitol building to interact with our local legislators.

**5) Civic Engagement Opportunities:** Academy students will work with a variety of organizations to provide them the opportunity to better understand how to be politically and civically engaged. Sample activities will include: voter registration drives, working at the voting polls, community leadership programs, and community service projects.

**6) Senior Year Capstone:** All Academy students will complete a Senior Capstone project that will be presented to a board of teachers and professors for approval. Students will be given their choice among different capstone themes including, but not limited to, working on a campaign, completing an internship, conducting a research project, or completing an eagle scout type service project in the community.

**7) Diploma Seal:** Students will receive a special seal on their diploma indicating their successful completion of the Academy.

**Jeff Davis** AP European History and AP Comparative Government/Model UN Teacher

**Corey Helsel** AP Human Geography Teacher

**Nancie Lindblom** AP US History, AP Government/We the People, Defining America Teacher

**Lianne Ries** Social Studies Department Chair and AP Government Teacher