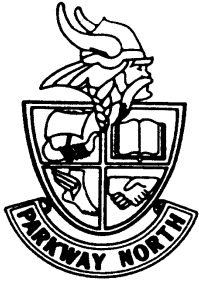


**ENGLISH  
DEPARTMENT**



**PARKWAY  
NORTH  
HIGH SCHOOL**

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**ENGLISH  
DEPARTMENT**

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15 May 2018

Dear students and parents,

Welcome! You are currently enrolled in Masterpieces I for the fall semester of 2018. Masterpieces is an English and humanities course that explores the foundation of western civilization through literature, poetry, drama, art, architecture, and philosophy. Masterpieces will assist you in making the transition from high school to college and will encourage you to explore and refine your own ideas about human expression over the past four thousand years. Masterpieces I and II may be taken separately, but we recommend you take the courses in succession so that you might have a comprehensive understanding of the history of the great works in literature.

Masterpieces is also available for 6 hours of college English credit through the University of Missouri. **If you decide to take the course for college credit, you must be enrolled in Masterpieces for both semesters.** More information will be provided the first week of school.

The fall semester will begin with a heavy emphasis on the Greeks. After a brief unit on the Hebrews and Creto-Minoans, we will have an extended unit on Heroic and Classical Greece. Our primary piece of literature for this unit is Homer's *Iliad*. Following the units on the Hebrews and Greeks, we concentrate on Roman and European literature, including a study of revenge tragedy. We encourage students to purchase their own copies of these texts (available online) so one may take notes in them and begin building a library of great books. This is especially encouraged of students who plan to pursue studies in literature, history, art or art history, architecture, or humanities-based fields. We do have copies for student use should you choose not to purchase these books.

**There is no summer reading assignment.**

Throughout the semester we will also explore readings in art history and philosophy using instructor-generated packets to reinforce the themes of the major pieces. Note-taking and participation through discussion are very important in this class, and much of the test material is derived from lectures and student-centered investigation and discussion. Once the 2018 school year begins, you will be given a syllabus outlining the major periods we cover during this semester as well as the due dates for assignments. Please plan to use Google Classroom and Infinite Campus to check for upcoming assignments and graded material.

Please contact me if you have any questions about the course. I look forward to seeing you in August. Have a great summer!

Sincerely,

Allison Cundiff  
acundiff@parkwayschools.net

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