

## FAQs for WCHS 9th grade United States History (Honors US History and AP US History)

1. How long has APUSH been offered to 9th graders at WCHS?
  - a. Our first freshmen took APUSH in 2006. Enrollment has now reached a point where approximately  $\frac{1}{3}$  of all Freshmen are enrolled in APUSH. This year we have 8 full sections of APUSH.
2. What's the difference between APUSH and Honors US History?
  - a. APUSH starts prior to arrival of Christopher Columbus (1450s) and goes up to present day. Honors US History starts with the American Industrial Revolution (late 1800s) and goes to present day. APUSH moves a lot faster. There's more reading and more writing. APUSH is modeled after introductory level college courses. Therefore there it is a much more rigorous course than Honors US History.
3. How much homework is there in 9th grade Honors US History versus APUSH?
  - a. Students in Honors US History can expect homework 3-4 nights a week for an average of approximately 20 minutes each night. APUSH students can expect homework every night and should spend approximately 30 minutes each night.
4. How successful have 9th grade APUSH students been in the past at WCHS?
  - a. Despite the increased rigor, students have been very successful. There are growing pains, but most students have traditionally earned As and Bs for quarter grades. AP Exam scores have been outstanding. Traditionally, 9th graders in APUSH have averaged approximately 3.9 on the 5 point AP scale. 3 is considered passing by College Board. Nearly every university in the United States accepts 4s and 5s on the APUSH exam for college credit.
5. What do 9th grade teachers provide for students who struggle?
  - a. Both Honors US History and APUSH teachers plan lessons that scaffold instruction for struggling students. Additionally, every teacher is required to hold office hours for extra help.
6. Can students enrolled in APUSH drop down to Honors US History if they are not performing well?
  - a. Maybe. Based on the staffing we receive from MCPS we try accommodate all student requests. However, sometimes this is not possible. If Honors US History classes are at capacity then APUSH students will not be able to move levels. Therefore, it is important for parents and students to discuss the rigors of APUSH prior to enrollment.
7. If parents or students have additional questions about APUSH or Honors US History who should they contact?
  - a. Email the Social Studies Resource Teacher, Mr. Van Tassell
    - i. [rodney\\_g\\_vantassell@mcpsmd.org](mailto:rodney_g_vantassell@mcpsmd.org)