



**APPLICATION FOR HONORS US HISTORY
A.J. DIMOND HIGH SCHOOL
2012-2013**

Dear Prospective Honors US History student:

Honors US History is designed for advanced students who possess excellent academic skills and high levels of motivation. Historical material is presented quickly, allowing the bulk of instructional time to be used to delve deeper into the subject matter. Goals for this course are numerous and include: the growth of students' historical knowledge and understanding, further development of critical academic skills, and the development of specific talents and general creativity.

Honors US History will be more difficult than other US History classes. There is more homework, as well as longer, more difficult assignments. Grades are based upon points awarded in five categories: tests, essays, projects, participation and homework. Final grades are based on overall performance and no grade adjustments are given to honor students to compensate for the increased difficulty and workload.

To be successful in this course you must be able to work independently and manage your time. You must also be able to work on more than one assignment at a time and keep your materials organized. You should feel confident with both reading and writing, and be prepared to do a large amount of both. You should also bring with you a desire to learn more about our history and the motivation to do well in your studies.

We would like to encourage all students with an interest in the honors history program to apply. You **do not** need to have previously participated in an honors or gifted program to be accepted into Honors US History at Dimond. Only students who submit a completed application will be considered for enrollment. If you are also considering taking AP US History, you may apply for both courses and, if admitted, ultimately choose which you would like to take.

There are three items that will be used to determine admittance into the honors program. Each item will be given equal weight in the application process. If you feel you are weak in one or more areas, you may wish to provide a written explanation. For example, a long illness may have caused a semester grade to be low.

The three components of the application are as follows:

1. Your high school social studies grades and cumulative high school GPA.
2. A teacher recommendation on the form provided.
3. An application essay.

Please be sure that your application contains all required items. Additional details on each item are provided on the Application Checklist (attached). Incomplete applications cannot be considered. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions. You may contact me via e-mail or telephone at: **wheelles_lem@asdk12.org** or **742-7000**.

Sincerely,

Lem Wheelles
Honors US History Teacher

Applications are due Monday, March 5, 2012, by 2:15 PM.

HONORS US HISTORY APPLICATION CHECK LIST
A.J. DIMOND HIGH SCHOOL
2012 – 2013

Student Name _____

Home Address _____

Phone Number _____ **E-mail** _____

9th Grade History Teacher _____

Please submit the following materials, stapled together, with this checklist on top. Incomplete applications cannot be considered.

_____ An unofficial copy of your high school transcript (Available from the Registrar, your counselor, or a current teacher).

_____ An application essay. Your essay should be 400-500 words, typed, double-spaced in 12-point font, following the conventions of standard written English. Your essay should address one of the following topics:

- A. Read the Preamble to the United States Constitution. Which of the purposes of our government described in the preamble are most important? Defend your answer.
- B. Choose a significant event in American history. Discuss how this event changed American society, politics, and culture.

_____ Teacher recommendation form. To be completed by your current social studies teacher. This should be returned separately by the teacher directly to Mr. Wheelles. *Students in Ms. Anderson's Honors World History course may omit the teacher recommendation.*

By signing this application, the parent/guardian and the student acknowledge the rigor of the Honors US History program, the impact absences will have on students' grades, and the importance of academic integrity.

Student signature _____

Parent signature _____

Date _____

All application materials must be submitted to Mr. Wheelles (room B103) no later than
2:15 PM, Monday, March 5, 2012.

**TEACHER RECOMMENDATION FOR HONORS US HISTORY
A.J. DIMOND HIGH SCHOOL
2012-2013**

*To be completed by the recommending teacher. Please return the completed recommendation directly to Mr. Wheelles on or before **Monday, March 5, 2012**. Thank you for your input!*

Student Name _____

Recommending Teacher _____

Teacher Signature _____

Please list the courses the requesting student took with you and any other activities in which you supervised this student: _____

Please indicate the grade earned by the student in your class (percentage is preferred):

_____ First Semester _____ Second Semester (to date)

Please evaluate this student in the following areas:

	Low	At Grade Level	Above Average	Very High	Top 5% of students
Maturity Level					
Academic Motivation					
Writing Ability					
Leadership Among Peers					
Commitment & Follow-through					

Does this student:	Consistently	Inconsistently
Come to class regularly		
Come to class prepared		
Write well in accordance with the six writing traits		

Please provide any additional comments below (you may continue on the back of the page if needed).
