

Summer Reading

*Booker T. Washington High School
2021-2022 Rising Juniors (Grade 11)*

English IBHL I – *The Prince* by Niccolo Machiavelli

The Prince is an extended analysis of how to acquire and maintain political power (though some scholars argue that the book was intended as a satire and essentially a guide on how *not* to rule). It includes 26 chapters and an opening dedication to Lorenzo de Medici. The dedication declares Machiavelli's intention to discuss in plain language the conduct of great men and the principles of princely government. He does so in hope of pleasing and enlightening the Medici family.

The book's 26 chapters can be divided into four sections: Chapters 1-11 discuss the different types of principalities or states, Chapters 12-14 discuss the different types of armies and the proper conduct of a prince as military leader, Chapters 15-23 discuss the character and behavior of the prince, and Chapters 24-26 discuss Italy's desperate political situation. The final chapter is a plea for the Medici family to supply the prince who will lead Italy out of humiliation.

We recommend that you:

- **PURCHASE THE BOOK NOW!** Books can be in short supply and libraries will have “hold” lists, especially by the end of summer.
- Go in together with a friend and share the expense and the book.
- See if the title is available for purchase in used book stores or even in local libraries.
- This book is in the public domain, so you may be able to find a digital copy for free online. Additionally, “Project Gutenberg” which is an online site, has it available for free to read.

Take notes! Please keep a dialectical journal as you read the book. Complete one or two entries per chapter.

Expectations for the beginning of the school year– *As you read and take notes, look for evidence that will help you answer the question, *what are the attributes of a powerful leader?* *Focusing on this question will help you prepare for class discussions and writing assignments. *Your notes will help you prepare for the exam over the book, and you can use your notes during the exam.