



THE PATRIOT WAY

SIGNATURE MONTHLY

2017-18 IEF SIGNATURE REFRESHER

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Old Mill HS Mission:

- The mission of Old Mill High School, a community rich in diversity with a multitude of programs, is to promote academic excellence and global perspective through collaboration and self-assessment in an effort to prepare productive citizens in an ever-changing world.

Signature Mission:

- The mission of the International Economics & Finance Signature is to help students develop a sense of individual responsibility, learn life and career skills, gain business, finance, and economic skills, and the critical thinking skills necessary to achieve the highest levels of personal, academic, and career success.

Welcome back! After an extended summer, the hallways of Old Mill are once again filled with students brimming with potential.

We have had a lot of new faces join the amazing faculty and staff at Old Mill in the last two years. With this in mind, it is important to provide a Signature refresher for new (and veteran) teachers at Old Mill.

Signature at Old Mill exists to provide opportunities for students and support for teachers, but not everyone is sure what that looks like.

Signature: International Economics & Finance operates on three tiers. The first tier is comprised of Signature Track students. These students are working to complete 4 credits in Signature-related classes such as AP Economics, Honors Entrepreneurship, or Business Law (email [Joshua White](mailto:Joshua.White), Signature Program Facilitator, for a complete course listing).

Signature Track students complete an introductory course, Explorations I, and a capstone project or internship as their culminating activity. Successful Signature students earn a certificate and a cord at graduation.

The Class of 2017 saw 7 students walk across the



stage as Signature grads. The Class of '18 is on track to have 10 Signature grads!

Signature Tier Two is focused on grade-level programming. The Mock Interview Program, for our English 11 students, provides students professional interview experiences conducted by local business and community members. The Armed Forces and local colleges and universities also send representatives to assist in the interview process.



Students in US Government – mostly 10th grade– will complete an online financial literacy training course after they take the Government HSA in the spring, and we will be expanding programming for 9th and 12th grade students over the course of this year.

The third tier of Signature is focused on the “Whole School.” Use of Signature Connections in conjunction with course content, field trips, and guest speakers provide the opportunity for teachers to create practical application of their content and to make real world connections.

Signature-themed advisory lessons and events such as the Hispanic Networking Event focus on practical skills and knowledge as well as education and career connections.

Signature: International Economics & Finance at Old Mill prepares our students for life after high school, regardless of path they choose. Connecting your content to higher education pathways, careers, and general adult literacy topics will go a long way in supporting their transition from high school to whatever’s next for our kids.

If you have any questions, ideas, or would like to talk about opportunities for your classroom, contact [Joshua White](mailto:Joshua.White), Signature Program Facilitator.

Here’s to a great opening and to the continued success of our students and faculty as the school year races by!

Upcoming Events:

Signature: International Economics & Finance:

- ◆ Oct. 2-6: CPR Training, Child Development
- ◆ Oct. 11 Field Trip, Library of Congress
- ◆ Oct. 17 Millionaire's Club
- ◆ Oct. 18 ICST Meeting
- ◆ Oct. 25 Field Trip, Civil Engineering Expo, Michael's 8th Ave
- ◆ Oct. 26 School Based Signature Team Meeting

Financial Literacy Tip:

Careers connect to all content areas! Give students some time to explore careers related to your field of study.

Items to explore:

- * Position title
- * Education track
- * Salary range
- * Growth potential

Use as extension, extra credit, or enrichment activities!

Visit OMHS on the web!
www.oldmillhs.org

*Patriots are:
Productive. Respectful. Involved. Determined.
Empowered.*



Old Mill

High School

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Signature Program Notes:

- ⇒ Explorations I is in the capable hands of Mr. Kjeld Lauritzen this year. Mr. Lauritzen has two sections during the fall semester and one in the spring. He has already gotten his students started on the Stock Market Game and has used events such as the recent hurricanes to make connections between course content and the real world.
- ⇒ The Millionaire's Club will begin in October! The Club will meet on **Tuesdays during PRIDE** in the **Bredon Lab** to examine all things related to becoming a millionaire, from saving to investing to smart financial choices.
- ⇒ The 2017 Mock Interview Program is approaching! All English 11 students will have a formal interview experience with a professional from outside the building. Interviews are November 16 & 17. Know anyone who would like to participate as an interviewer? They can sign up as an interviewer [here!](#)
- ⇒ If you would like to get your students out of the building in support of your content, contact [Joshua White](#), Signature Program Facilitator, to coordinate a field trip! Bus and sub support are available if your trip connects to our International Economics & Finance theme! Money is going fast, so don't miss....the....um....bus!
- ⇒ We have a new location on the web! Check out the new Old Mill High School **Signature: International Economics & Finance** [website!](#)

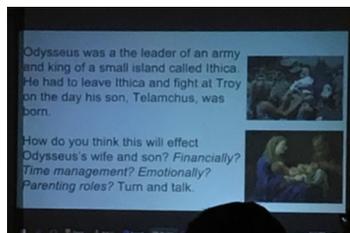
ECONOMICS & ENGLISH CONNECTIONS

Signature Connections, or the Signature theme prompts rolled out last year, provide teachers with a quick reference tool to draw our Signature theme into their course content.

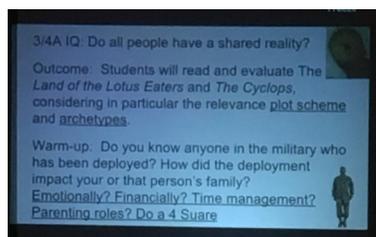
The idea behind the prompts is to support teachers as they identify natural touch points between content and application of content to real-world scenarios. A Signature Connections Professional Development session was offered, and well attended, prior to the return of our students.

The English Department jumped right on the use of Signature Connections during the first weeks of school. Ms. Blue's English 10 clas-

ses, which began the year reading *The Odyssey*, used a warmup to examine the economic impact of soldiers going off to war. Students compared the impact of deployment in modern times to deployment in the time of Odysseus.



Students in Ms. Gershon's English 11 classes, while working on sentence structure, ventured into a conversation about dividends and saving for retirement. Students asked about investing, market fluctuation, and the impact of the 2007 recession on retirement savings.



Both teachers used opportunities that came up naturally in their content to make connections between

our Signature theme and their content. Both also provided students the ability to apply knowledge to practical situations.

In the case of *The Odyssey* warm up, students thought about the impact of soldier deployment and how it has changed over time. Ms. Gershon's lesson, though not specifically directed toward economics, naturally created questions among students and she seized the teachable moment to make a Signature connection.

Making Signature connections? Let [Joshua White](#), Signature Program Facilitator, know! Be recognized for creating relevance!

Thanks for supporting Signature and making real-world connections for our students!

