Natasha Interview (transcript)

1. In social studies class, which type of structure do you prefer? (lecture, group work, working with a partner, independent work, class discussion, etc.). Why?

*I think that the class learns more with a class discussion – everyone putting their opinions in, everyone contributing their own ideas. Structures like lectures and notes are necessary just to get the material down and learn for the test.*

1. In social studies class, which type of assessments do you prefer? (tests, group projects, partner projects, individual projects, presentations, paper, etc.). Why?

*I think that tests are easier because studying just comes easy to me. I think that some of the projects are kind of pointless, like they are more on the creative side and less on the learning side, but projects are beneficial when they focus on retaining a lot of information in one project, so like a whole unit in one project.*

1. When studying any given civilization or society in social studies class, which are you most interested in learning about – government, economy, religion/culture, gender, children/education, or family life? Why?

*Personally, I enjoy culture the most, I think that’s just where my interest leads. I don’t think I’m going to retain a lot of information on government or politics or anything of that nature, just because I don’t care as much. I want to know what people do in their everyday life, or what they did in their everyday life, rather.*

1. Which unit or units in World History class this year did you find most interesting or engaging? (Mesopotamia/Early Humans, Egypt, India, China, Greece, Rome, Byzantine Empire, Major World Religions, Middle Ages, Africa, The Renaissance). Why?

*I think I enjoyed India the most. That was the one where we had a test and a project, and I think that I just remembered more of the information because we had so much work on it. We didn’t have a lot of notes during that section but I think that just off of my own personal research it worked out a lot better. And that section was also highly focused on culture.*

*I loved the religions unit, I’m just really interested in religion in my own personal life. And I’m also a really active Christian so it was nice comparing all of the religions. I wish we would have stayed on that chapter a little longer.*

*And I think that I – I think that we didn’t do enough information on Africa, but I think that the cultural points of view, as in like the videos and the worksheets that we did and the stories that we learned, were really nice just to kind of know.*

1. What do you wish we learned about or spent more time learning about in World History class this year? Why?

*In World History? In World History I think that we did a lot on, like a long time ago during Europe, and I wish that we would have just done more on like current Europe. And just in general like currently what is going on in the world – you know, in Venezuela, things with Russia, just current events that we don’t get to focus on during World History.*

1. To you think learning social studies or history is valuable or relevant to your life? Why or why not?

*I think that as a child I didn’t really care about it because it just wasn’t relevant to me, but as I found teachers that made history fun I began to value it so much more and it became really important to me. Um, I’m a debater so it’s really important to bring up things that happened in the past to address current problems. And going to Bookman it just makes it easier to argue a subject or to just bring something into the conversation. A lot of times during our class discussions we bring in stuff from other chapters – it’s just relevant.*

1. Do you have any questions for me about this project or in general?

*I think just in a comparison to our previous teacher, um, I feel like people are more engaged in your class. And the note-taking process is a lot easier because you put everything on the board, as opposed to our previous teacher who talked about it a lot and didn’t really put a lot on the board. And I think that the group discussions – they make it easier for us to know our opinion on the subject instead of just learning about it. And I think personally, History became more, it became that class that I wanted to go to, as opposed to the class that I just had to go to or that I just couldn’t skip because I needed the notes for that day.*