

May 15, 2009

Dear Incoming Honors English Student:



Welcome to Honors English 10. Honors English 10 is a rigorous academic program, which attracts intelligent, unique, and hard-working students. If you have enrolled for the fall semester, you will want to demonstrate your dedication to the upcoming Honors program by completing the following **mandatory** summer reading assignment.

Please:

1. **Fill out the Contract** on the next page (Be sure that both you and your parent/guardian sign.) and return it to your current English 10 teacher as soon as possible.
2. **You MUST read two books**, from the list below. This is a requirement for enrollment in Honors English 10. **Choose your books carefully** to be sure that you select books you can **understand** by yourself without the aid of any other resource or assistance. You must demonstrate that you indeed have read and understood entirely the books you chose:
The Amazing Adventures of Kavalier and Clay– Michael Chabon
The Bell Jar – Sylvia Plath
The Handmaid’s Tale – Margaret Atwood
A Heartbreaking Work of Staggering Genius– Dave Eggers
The Hunchback of Notre Dame – Victor Hugo
I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings – Maya Angelou
Sense and Sensibility –Jane Austen
Silas Marner – George Elliot
Le Morte D’Arthur –Sir Thomas Malory
The Iliad–Homer
3. **Be prepared to take a multiple choice test and/or a writing assignment the first week of class on the two books listed above.** The expectation is that students will score higher than 70% if they plan to continue their participation in the Honors English program
4. **It is recommended that you take notes on the attached study sheet.** The notes you take should help you prepare for the test or writing assignment. Develop your own ideas, and write your own words and sentences without collaborating with other students or other sources, such as Spark Notes, or the Internet. (See our Academic Honesty guidelines at MyJBHS.com). The notes will **NOT** be collected or graded
5. In addition, you may want to get a head start on the literature you will be reading next year. Though each English teacher assigns different additional novels, all Honors English 10 classes at Burroughs read:
Ernest Hemingway’s *Old Man and the Sea*
Harper Lee’s *To Kill a Mockingbird*
Charles Dickens’ *A Tale of Two Cities*

☺ Have a great vacation. We look forward to seeing you in class this fall.

Honors English 10 Summer Reading Contract

Parent Contract Please read and sign the contract below, and have the student return it to their current eighth-grade English teacher ASAP.

I have read the above and understand that my son/daughter must read at least two books from the Honors English 10 Summer Reading List. I understand that it is recommended that he/she complete each of the two study guides on his or her own, **with no collaboration or assistance.** **I understand that Honors students will take a multiple choice test on two of these books during the first week of school. They may also be asked to write an essay.** It is also my understanding that some of the literary works listed have adult themes and dialogue. I accept that it is my responsibility to guide my son/daughter to literature that is consistent with our family's values and beliefs.

Parent Signature _____

Date _____

Parent's Name (printed) _____

Parent's Home Telephone Number _____

Student Contract

- I have read the above and understand that I am responsible for following all of the guidelines and requirements stated.
- I understand that completion of the two Study-Guide is for my benefit to help me remember the books and will not be collected.
- I affirm that there will be no collaboration with other students, or assistance from the Internet, movies, or any other secondary sources such as Cliff's Notes or Spark Notes.
- I understand that Honors students are expected to behave honorably from the moment they apply to the program to the final day of class, that any assistance either in collaboration with others or from secondary sources will be viewed as cheating and that any student caught cheating will be dropped from Honors English for the term.**

Student Signature _____

Student's Name (printed) _____

Student's English 9 Teacher _____

Grades in English Grade 9: 1st Semester _____ 2nd Semester _____

Student's English 8 Teacher _____

Grades in English Grade 8: 1st Semester _____ 2nd Semester _____

Honors or Regular English this year? Honors _____ Regular _____

GATE or Regular English last year? GATE _____ Regular _____

☺ Please return this signed sheet to your English teacher by May 26, 2009

