June 2023

Dear Honors English 10 Parent, Guardian, and Student,

Congratulations! Your son or daughter is enrolled in an Honors 10 English course for the 2023 – 2024 school year. This letter is our first opportunity for dialogue/ discussion about a few expectations for the upcoming summer as well as fall assignments and objectives.

First, the Honors English 10 course will require a higher degree of literary and writing skills than the general education English course. While the English Department courses work with the same Common Core Strands and fundamental curriculum choices, honors or advanced placement level course is traditionally a faster-paced, more in-depth study of literature and writing thus educators may have permission from academic boards to deviate from traditional high school curriculum to develop more rigorous units. Your student’s previous high school English courses have focused primarily on literature; reading important works of fiction, nonfiction, drama, and poetry in a survey or anthology forum. While students will read similar genres and styles of literature throughout the year, this course has a different emphasis: writing, as stated in the Common Core Standards. The Common Core Curriculum directs more of a multicultural or worldview of literature and at least three different structures in writing. This course is designed to help students become skilled analytical readers of nonfiction and fiction as well as to engage writers in a variety of modes and rhetorical contexts. The course pedagogy offers foundational writing lessons, reader and writer workshop units with anchor text, book club style reading, writing, and speaking, and continues to embed standardized test preparation. This format encourages practice, application, synthesis, and evaluation of a processed product but with the freedom of creativity, choice, and voice. Students will learn the fundamentals of writing through the process, be given multiple opportunities for constructive criticism, and will develop skills for revision, proofreading, and editing. Students will be encouraged to take risks and to experiment with creative techniques to develop individual voice and styles through mini-lessons and modal workshops. In short, your son or daughter will not only become a resourceful reader but also a proficient writer.

Second, Students are expected to be self-motivated, mature, well-behaved individuals who are ready to work conscientiously and diligently for all class work; to think critically about the assigned reading/ writing, to accept constructive criticism, and to revise and edit his/ her writing. In an honors-level course, students should already understand and be able to apply a proficiency level of usage with Standard English grammar and rhetoric; however, there will be continued development and review of twenty commonly assessed grammar and rhetoric skills throughout the year. Students will be exposed to a combination of online as well as text-based resources to facilitate his/her learning, development, growth, and resourcefulness. Communication through written expression is vital for academic and career readiness and to further communication skills students will be exposed to different types of presentation formats. Oral presentation is a requirement for students at this level as well as collaborative communication skills. Students will be exposed to, instructed in, and assessed in various communication-related assignments.

Third, an important goal of this course is to prepare students for college-level courses such as the AP English Language and Composition and/ or the AP Literature course in future years. This course will cover the expectations for standardized test-taking and offer several strategies for success. At this level, students will be taking practice tests such as the PSAT and NWEA to predict future academic needs.

Fourth, career and life skills are important for students. Use of technology for education, leadership, advocacy, business, economy, and community service along with other global demands requires students to work with applications, software, and online systems such as Google Drive, Microsoft Office, Schoology, Khan Academy and so many more platforms for effectiveness and efficiency. This increasing demand in a global community encourages students to build skills during school that he/ she can apply for the rest of life. It is for this reason, a portion of the learning your student completes will be through technology.

**In order to prepare for next fall, each student must complete tasks over the summer:**

1. Reading nonfiction, historical fiction, multi-cultural novel (see the list of choices below)
2. Writing an expository (cultural-feature analysis) essay.
	1. Essay submission via Schoology or in hard copy the first week of school.

*I recommend that each student purchase his/ her own copy for the reading so he/ she may take notes in the book (s); however, a “rented” copy from a local library is perfectly acceptable. Some titles are older, others more contemporary so a bookstore such as Barnes & Noble is a great place to start if you choose to purchase- as is Amazon.com. If a library is more your speed, make sure to check the entire database for Southeastern Michigan Libraries because inventory differs per establishment and books can be “borrowed” between libraries. Check with your local reference or circulation desk for more details. Audio books may be available as with new technology also PDF published copies of some book titles.*

If you have questions, you can join the class Remind at the following link:

<https://www.remind.com/join/huyghe>

Please discuss the demanding nature of this course with your student to confirm that he or she is prepared for a faster-paced, more in-depth course. Student summer work will be assessed as a grade for the class. Materials will be used in the fall semester for unit assignments. Please feel free to contact me at school by phone at 586-825-2700 ext. 14217 during the school year or by e-mail at huyghe@wcskids.net (I will check my e-mail & remind periodically during the summer). I look forward to working with your son or daughter next year.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Huyghe

Mrs. Jennifer Huyghe

Sterling Heights High School English Department