AP Central/College Board Preparing Every Student for College

Pre-AP is based on the following two important premises. The first is the expectation that all students can perform well at rigorous academic levels. This expectation should be reflected in curriculum and instruction throughout the school such that all students are consistently being challenged to expand their knowledge and skills to the next level.

The second important premise of Pre-AP is the belief that we can prepare every student for higher intellectual engagement by starting the development of skills and acquisition of knowledge as early as possible. Addressed effectively, the middle and high school years can provide a powerful opportunity to help all students acquire the knowledge, concepts, and skills needed to engage in a higher level of learning.

Philosophy

This course is aligned with the California Common Core State Standards and the AP College Board. We will work to prepare you for the rigorous reading and writing demands of future Honors and AP courses and the AP Language and Literature tests you will be taking in your junior and senior years. Due to the challenging requirements of this course, you should be reading and writing at or above a 9th grade level.

Expect to be challenged in this class as we explore the significant issues found in novels, plays, poems, and nonfiction writing. We will also focus on how writers use their craft to achieve specific effects within their work.

You must have an open mind and willingness to take academic risks, an enthusiasm to participate in discussions and projects, and the ability to be creative and think outside the box. This class provides the opportunity for you to grow as a reader, writer, and thinker – it is your job to take advantage of it. You will be required to read, analyze, and write about various pieces of literature being discussed throughout the term. You will develop critical reading and writing skills and learn to form insightful, text-supported opinions and clearly express them both verbally and in written form. This will require vigorous reading and exploration of complex topics that often have more than one interpretation.

Lastly, students will learn to relate the issues, topics, and ideas contained in novels, poems, and other texts to their own experiences. One of the most rewarding aspects of receiving an education is not only understanding the what of something, but also understanding the why. Making a personal connection to ourselves or the world is the true purpose of studying literature. Honors English students should be prepared to work hard (expect 1-2 hours of homework a night), dig deep, and come to a better understanding of the world and its issues.
Honors English I Summer Reading Assignments 2017
DUE Tuesday, August 29, 2017

This year we will be readings texts that explore the themes of the hero’s journey, goodness, hope, and love. The following list of books explores these themes in some way. Read two books from the list and complete a book report for each one (see the directions for the book report below). Reports should be completed in MLA format. Use a combination of direct quotes and paraphrases from the text to support your responses to the questions.

Books
- Night by Elie Wiesel
- The Book Thief by Marcus Zusak
- Harry Potter and the Sorcerer’s Stone by JK Rowling
- Graceling by Kristin Cashore
- Ender’s Game by Orson Scott Card
- The Fault in Our Stars by John Green
- Speak by Lauri Halse Anderson
- Farewell to Manzanar by Jean Wakatsuki Houston and James D. Houston
- Thirteen Reasons Why by Jay Asher
- Maus I and II by Art Speigelman
- If You Come Softly by Jacklyn Woodson

Book Report
The GTHS English Department uses the MLA format for essays and papers (including heading and overall format), so you will need to use this format to complete the book report, especially in citing the text to support your responses. Google the proper MLA format if you do not know how to set up your paper. Also, here are good resources for the MLA format:
- https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/747/01/
- https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=22CPQoLE4U0
- https://owl.english.purdue.edu/media/pdf/20090701095636_747.pdf

Directions
- You will submit two book reports and each report should have the proper MLA heading and the name of the book is the title of your report. Number your answers to correspond to the questions. Responses should be in paragraph form.
- All answers must be in complete sentences. You do not need to rewrite the questions but you must incorporate the questions into your responses and write your answer so that a reader who has not read the book will understand what is being described.
- For each response, support your ideas with evidence from the text.
- Grading will be based on accuracy and thoughtfulness of answers; and spelling, grammar and neatness.
Questions

1. Choose three main characters from your book and find a quote for each that gives an insight into the character’s personality. Explain what the quote shows about the character’s personality. Use correct MLA citation format (quotation marks and page number …).
2. List the 5 most important events in the story in chronological order (plot). Explain the significance of each event.
3. Explain what the main conflict is in the story.
4. Predict what would happen next if there had been one more chapter. Then write a new ending for your story. Be realistic.
5. Describe the most important relationship between two characters. Why is it significant?
6. What kind of impact does the setting have on the story? How would the story change if it were in a different place AND time? Explain.
7. A dynamic character is one who changes or grows. Compare the differences in the protagonist (main character) from the beginning of the story to the end. Explain what causes the changes. Include at least 3 quotes from the book that exemplify this change.
8. Similes and metaphors are used by authors to help the reader form more vivid mind pictures. Copy directly from the story, 3 examples of similes and/or metaphors, explaining about each within the context of the story. (You need to know what similes and metaphors are before doing this. Consult https://literarydevices.net/ for definitions and examples of literary terms).
9. Choose one of the following creative tasks:
   a. Invent and explain a new machine that would have helped a character in your book. Draw it in color on plain white paper. Explain how it would have been helpful.
   b. Redesign the book’s jacket. Illustrate a new cover by drawing a scene or important element from the story. Include interesting fonts and colors. Write favorable reviews and an interesting synopsis of the story to market the book to buyers.
   c. Create a playlist of songs that matches the tone or mood of the story. Design an album cover using plain white paper and color it. Explain your song choices and describe the album cover’s design.
10. You are a lawyer and are representing one of the characters in the novel. Defend a major or significant decision this character has made. Explain why it was a good or reasonable decision regardless of what the outcome would be.