

Dear Prospective Honors High School English 1-2 Student and Parents:

Recommendations for Honors High School English 1-2 in the fall are made when students demonstrate the following: a solid work ethic; a genuine interest in the English language and literature; strong writing skills; excellent reading comprehension – both literal and inferential; good interpretive and analytical skills. A student who will be successful in this program generally has MAP Reading, MAP Language, and CST scores in the Advanced Range and has the habits of mind associated with integrative thinking skills (sustains and expresses curiosity, generates hypotheses, synthesizes multiple ideas into a new idea, compares and contrasts own ideas with others, asks relevant and thought-provoking questions of him/herself and others, and makes connections between literature, culture, and individual experience).

With a recommendation from the current teacher, we are confident that the student will find the honors experience a valuable one. In order to prepare for the Honors English class, **the student must complete a summer reading assignment.** This reading will help prepare him/her for the kind of academic work that will be expected during the school year.

Students can expect a test and for the work to be collected in week 2 of each term. The test will cover specific information such as settings, characters, and plot events. Also, students will write an on-demand, multi-paragraph interpretive essay (either thematic analysis or character analysis) about the summer reading.

Students need to read the assigned work carefully and take notes as evidence of close reading (more specific information about the notes will be posted on rbhs.org). Students may want to buy the assigned book in order to highlight key passages and make margin notes; however, all required selections can also be checked out from the RBHS school library in June (dates TBD). It should be noted that all students will be accountable for these requirements, and even students who are only considering an Honors English class should plan ahead in order to meet expectations.

This year's required summer reading is *The Illustrated Man* by Ray Bradbury.

We look forward to meeting incoming Honors students in the fall! If you have any questions, you may direct them to your current English/Humanities teachers. If you have any concerns about readiness for Honors English, we would be more than happy to forward them to the appropriate Honors teachers.

Sincerely,
Elizabeth Winn
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