

Welcome to English I Honors 2019-2020!

Congratulations! The course in which you are enrolled is one for students who, according to the Roxbury High School Program of Studies, “are highly motivated and who have demonstrated advanced reading and writing skills.” Students in this course are being prepared for college-level coursework in their sophomore year English class, AP Seminar; therefore, the assignments are challenging. I ask my students to adopt a “growth mindset” at the beginning of the year, one that is “learning-focused” rather than “grade-focused.” I encourage parents and students to click the link to learn more about this habit of mind: <https://www.brainpickings.org/2014/01/29/carol-dweck-mindset/>. The last page of this letter further clarifies the spirit of an Honors student. You will be asked to reflect upon how you practiced these qualities when we meet in September.

Honors students understand that reading is an active process of making meaning, and they know that SparkNotes and other summary/analysis sites are not substitutes for active engagement with a text. Honors students look up words they don’t understand, reread the text with the new information in mind, and only then move forward to the next section. Honors students investigate phrases and clauses they don’t immediately grasp, and in the process learn to recognize the literary element of allusions, understanding that a narrative reference to historical events, Shakespeare, or a biblical text is essential to understanding the text being studied. Honors students investigate the historical context in which a text was written, and they use that information to further inform their understanding of the text. This year’s summer reading program for incoming English I Honors students further encourages this exploration of the historical and cultural background of the assigned novel, allowing these students to demonstrate that they are independent, engaged, and voracious learners and thinkers.

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2019-2020 IH Summer Reading Instructions and Resources

Join the IH Summer Reading Google Classroom

copy and paste this code: 6j0oen0

Requirement 1: Choice-Based Summer Reading - English IH students will participate in all sections of Roxbury High School’s [Summer Reading Experience](#). Honors students are expected to demonstrate significant thought and detail in their responses on the forum. All responses should fall within the highest levels of the provided rubric.

Requirement 2: Grammar and Language - Students should have a solid understanding of how the English language works, from identifying the parts of speech within a sentence to identifying the subject and predicate within various sentence structures. Grammar and writing instruction begins with the expectation that these K-8 standards are mastered. Prepositions and adverbs tend to be the trickiest. I

recommend practicing identifying those within texts rather than in isolation. Students will be tested on these foundational skills within the first two weeks of the school year. The following links are useful tools to be used for review/study if necessary: [Parts of Speech Intro with helpful poem](#), [Parts of Speech Table](#), [Parts of Speech Review Quiz - Quiz](#), [University of Ottawa Parts of Speech - Review Quiz](#). In addition, many students find the [Khan Academy videos](#) to be of great help.

Students will check their progress three times: once in June to understand their starting point, once in July to check progression, and once in August to demonstrate growth and proficiency. Dates and times of access are listed below.

1. Grammar Check 1 will open on June 26th must be completed by 11:59 pm on June 30th. [Grammar Check 1 Link](#)
2. Grammar check 2 will open on July 22nd and must be completed by July 31st, no later than 11:59pm. [Grammar Check 2 Link](#)
3. Grammar Check 3 will open on August 19th and must be completed by August 30, no later than 11:59pm. [Grammar Check 3 Link](#)

Requirement 3: Analytical Reading Novel Study - follow instructions found in the following document: [Dialectical Synthesis Journals](#). **All required readings are provided in the links below.**

Primary Text - *Fahrenheit 451* by Ray Bradbury. An electronic copy is included in this link for your convenience: [Fahrenheit 451 Full Text PDF](#)

Secondary Resource 1 - [Historical Context Resources](#)

Secondary Resource 2 - [How to Read Literature Like a Professor chapters for F451](#)

Final Words: At Roxbury High School we believe strongly in education, the value of literature, and the power of the pen. We believe in critical thinking, original thought, and the desire to grow as learners. We might work really hard to improve and earn a C - and we'll be proud of our progress rather than distressed we didn't earn an A. Students are expected to be thoughtful, considerate, and respectful of others throughout the summer project and the school year. All work must be original and should not be reliant on the work or thoughts of others. Plagiarism should not even be a thought. Any student who gives another student their work or ideas to help or assist is equally guilty of plagiarism. Please don't even consider it. If you are unsure about what plagiarism entails please consult the following link: [Plagiarism 101](#)

I look forward to meeting you in September.

Sincerely,

Ms. Maria Rispoli, Ed.S.

Habits of Mind of an Honors English Student

I will...

read widely and often &

write widely and often to

foster my spirit of inquiry,

cultivate my curiosity,

and seek to understand

while I

make connections from my reading to history,

culture, and society

continuing to

reflect thoughtfully to refine my thinking

&

develop my capacity for analysis

which allows me to

revise deeply & demonstrate originality

While always

working diligently and with integrity