

June 7, 2017

Dear Tenth Grade Honors Student,

Welcome to **10th grade Interdisciplinary Studies!** This course is a combination of American history and English, covering the time period from the beginning of the 20th Century to the present. 10th Interdis. is a truly interdisciplinary course, thus you will earn one grade that will count for 10th grade course requirements in *both* English and Social Studies. This program will require extensive reading, and it is important that you begin reading over the summer.

- This summer we want you to read **three (3) books**. You may choose books that interest you as long as each of the books is written by an **American** author, addresses some aspect of American culture and is **at least 100 pages** long. The books you choose may be fiction or non-fiction. Try to choose three appropriate books that connect or relate to one another as this will help you successfully complete a major assignment when you return to class in September. If you have questions about your book choices, please confer with either of us.

Summer Journal Entries: As you read the assigned books, we ask you to keep a journal. Please follow the directions/format listed below as you write in your *Summer Reading Journal*:

1. Begin by recording the author, title, place of publication, publisher, and copyright date following MLA format. (Google “MLA Owl” to find the user-friendly website dedicated to the Modern Language Association’s format for writing research).
 2. On the same page, describe the setting of the book—place(s) and time period. Make a prediction about what you think the author’s theme (message/point to prove) will be (parts 1 and 2 must be one page in length).
 3. On the following pages of your journal, write a summary of the book (minimum of four pages). Following the brief summary, record at least two quotations that are particularly important or that reveal the author’s message. Cite these quotations using MLA format.
- Follow this format for each book you read.
 - Use the same journal for all three books.
 - Your summer journal will be collected during the first week of school. Each of your three summer reading journals will count for a test grade (total of 300 points to be applied towards the 1st Quarter grade).

Summer Meetings: To help you move through these readings and to have a chance to get to know you a little better before the school year begins, we are scheduling **two (2) meetings** over the course of the summer. Our first meeting will be tentatively scheduled for Wednesday, **July 19th** at 1:00 PM. The second meeting will be scheduled for Thursday, **August 10th** at 1:00 PM. All meetings will be held at **Grundy Library**. While these meetings are *not* required, *we do want you to come if you can so that we can discuss the books with you and help you prepare for the writing project that will be assigned in the first week back to school in September.*

Writing Assignment Upon Your Return: Your first writing assignment in September will ask you to analyze the three books you have read over the summer. You will be asked to identify the **setting** (place and time period) of each book. You will also be asked to identify and discuss a **COMMON THEME** (NOT SUBJECT) that is present in all three of the books, using specific examples and quotations from each of the books as evidence to support your thesis. To better understand the difference between theme and subject, be a motivated activist and go to the following link or Google “finding theme”: <http://literarydevices.net/theme/> .

We will check your summer journal for completion the first day back to school, but we will actually collect your summer journal when we collect your essay the first week of school. Each book journal will count as a major test grade (100 points each), so please be diligent, excited, and ambitious!!!

We hope you enjoy your summer reading. We are looking forward to seeing you this summer and in September. Have a safe, enjoyable, and productive summer.

Sincerely,

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