

June 12th, 2018

Dear Tenth Grade Honors Student,

Welcome to **10<sup>th</sup> grade Interdisciplinary Studies!** This course is a combination of American history and English, covering the time period from the beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century to the present. 10<sup>th</sup> Interdis. is a truly interdisciplinary course, thus you will earn one grade that will count for 10<sup>th</sup> 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 **two (2) 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 nonfiction. Try to choose two 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. (Books you **MAY NOT INCLUDE** for the summer assignment include *Call of the Wild*, *The Great Gatsby*, and *Of Mice and Men*.)

**Summer Journal Entries:** As you read the assigned books, we ask you to write a **3-page journal** entry for each book. Please follow the directions/format listed below as you write in your **Summer Reading Journal:**

Page One

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).

Page Two

3. On the following page of your journal, write a summary/review of the book. After the summary, give your book a rating from 1-4 “stars” (4 being the best), and explain (in detail) why you have rated it this way. Consider elements like character development, storyline, author’s treatment of the topic, writing style, personal connections, etc. (minimum of one page).

Page Three

4. After your summary, list at least **THREE** Important Quotations. These should be quotations that are particularly important or that reveal the author’s message. You must include a brief explanation after each quote explaining **WHY** you selected it and **WHY** it is important. Cite these quotations using MLA format.

Please Note: 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 200 points to be applied towards the 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter grade). **Should any part (phrase, sentence, paragraph, etc.) of your journal match another source (online or otherwise), it will be considered plagiarism, resulting in a grade of ZERO out of 200. All written work must be 100% original.**

**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 19<sup>th</sup>** at 1:00 PM. The second meeting will be scheduled for Thursday, **August 10<sup>th</sup>** 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 two 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 both 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,

*Elyce Peltier*

Mrs. Elyce Peltier

[epeltier@bbsd.org](mailto:epeltier@bbsd.org)

***Ron McGinn***

Mr. Ron McGinn

[rmcinn@bbsd.org](mailto:rmcinn@bbsd.org)