

Introduction to 2008 Honors English

TO: Students enrolled in Honors English for 2008-2009 & their parents
FROM: Dave Payne, Honors English Instructor
DATE: May 5, 2008

The Guidance Office is working on putting final touches on the Master Schedule for next year. This sheet details the required work for Honors English students -- looking forward to working with you next year.

Honors English Expectations . . .

Honors English is an excellent course for students preparing for the challenges of college reading and writing. It also prepares students for the AP English Literature test which is offered at FVL for interested students at their expense. If you signed up for Honors English, you need to be aware of the following:

- SUMMER ASSIGNMENTS:** Honors English students are expected to read about 500 pages during the summer. The books for this year are *The Scarlet Letter* by Nathaniel Hawthorne, *Cyrano de Bergerac* by Edmond Rostand, and *Hamlet* by William Shakespeare. Each book is tied to a specific writing assignment. Guidelines for these assignments will be posted on the website beginning in June. (It is strongly advised that you purchase these texts at www.prestwickhouse.com -- the cost range is only \$1.99-\$2.49 each and I will be giving you assignments based on the page numbers in these books.) You are expected to take notes and will be tested on these works at the beginning of class next August. You also must create a personal resume that is due the first full day of class. (You can check the Honors English website to see what last year's books and assignments were.) There are several checkpoints during the summer where you will be expected to submit reading progress reports to me via your FVL email account. **NOTE:** Students who do not successfully complete their summer assignments prior to August 26th will be reassigned to English IV.
- CLASSROOM PRESENTATIONS:** I have been told that some students sign up for Honors English because they are worried about taking Speech class. Please be aware that in Honors English you will be expected to present regularly in front of class in both solo and group settings.
- COSTS:** Students are to purchase their own textbook for Honors English so they can practice annotating or "marking up" their texts. At this time, it appears the cost will be in the range of \$25-30 dollars. We also plan a field trip to a local theatrical performance each year at a cost of about \$10 per student. Students are expected to attend and will be assigned work reviewing the outing.
- CLASSWORK REQUIREMENTS:** During the school year, plan to have a reading assignment of 15-30 minutes due each day. (This includes assignments over most weekends.) You will also have a reading & writing project each quarter that must be worked on outside of class time. In addition to this, two major research projects are assigned -- one each semester. (Research paper in fall; major MS PowerPoint presentation in class during the spring.) Writing assignments will include 1) book analyses of classic books, 2) literary analysis papers, 3) a precis, 4) a personal interview, 5) a theatre review, 6) journal entries, and 7) personal insight/reflection papers.
- COMPUTER/INTERNET ACCESS:** For class, students will need to have access to a quality computer and printer. Some computer work can be done at school, but you will also need to work at home. All papers must be word-processed. Students need to have MS Word or Wordperfect and MS Powerpoint. In addition, it is important for students to have reliable home access to e-mail and the Internet. The internet is a necessary home resource for this class.
- EMAIL CONTACT:** In keeping with school policy, students are expected to stay in touch with me over the summer using the school email system. This assures that their work will be received by me instead of being intercepted by FVL's spam filtering software. (This has been a problem in the past.)

THIS SHEET CONTINUES ON THE BACK SIDE

HONORS ENGLISH ENROLLMENT AGREEMENT

I have read this Introduction to Honors English and understand the expenses involved. As a student, I accept the responsibility of completing the summer assignments & other requirements as described above. As a parent, I agree to my student's enrollment in this class under these conditions.

Student Name: _____ Signature: _____

Parent Name: _____ Signature: _____

-- RETURN THIS FORM TO MR. PAYNE BY MAY 16 --

7. CONTROVERSIAL CONTENT: This course is designed as a college prep course. In college, students will experience a variety of worldviews expressed by their professors, their classmates, and the materials they are studying. In Honors English, we will be reading literature by controversial authors who do not always share our Christian worldview. While the discussion of these authors will be Christ-centered, students will be expected to participate in the readings, discussion, and analysis of these controversial authors and works.

QUESTIONS: I hope this sheet gives you a clearer picture of Honors English. If you have any questions, you are welcome to phone me at the school (739-4441) or e-mail me at dpayne@fvlhs.org.

ASSIGNMENT #1: Sign, cut and return the “Honors English Enrollment Agreement” by the deadline of May 16 **AND EMAIL ME AT** dpayne@fvlhs.org to let me know you have read this sheet. For the Subject Line of your reply use the title: **2008 Summer Assignment Received**. In the body of the email, please introduce yourself by telling me your name and the title of your favorite piece of classic literature. Also tell me who is your favorite author and why. Finally, please list any personal email addresses that you regularly check so that I can send you special hints on your summer assignments. Thanks!