

May 17, 2021

Welcome to English III Honors!

With school about to end and summer peaking around the corner, we want to make you aware of the Junior Honors expectations. Before you leave to enjoy this summer hiatus, you should take note of the summer reading requirement for the 2021-22 English III Honors. We will begin this class with the novel *The Scarlet Letter* by Nathaniel Hawthorne. While the Hays Public Library does have a limited number of copies of the book available, you may wish to purchase your own copy or check out a copy from Hays High. If you are interested in checking out a novel from Hays High, please email [kwagoner@usd489.com](mailto:kwagoner@usd489.com). You will be responsible for returning the novel or pay the cost for replacement.

As a historical fiction novel set in the Puritan period (1642-1649), *The Scarlet Letter* by Nathaniel Hawthorne, focuses on societal expectations centered around a woman's pregnancy outside of marriage. You will note the various roles individuals play in society and the human behaviors which influence the actions of others. Also, Hawthorne forces the readers to reflect on their own biases and attitudes while looking at the frailties of the human condition. Please keep reading past the "Custom House" chapter—the novel does pick up once you reach the actual story!

We will begin the class with activities related to the novel; thus, prior to the school year beginning, we recommend you read the book. If you wait until school begins, you may find yourself feeling overwhelmed and behind since the activities will require you to have an in-depth understanding of the events in the novel. These activities will be the first grades in PowerSchool, so please come prepared—read the novel!

If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact us by email.

Enjoy your summer! We are looking forward to meeting you!

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## HONORS POLICY, EXPECTATIONS, AND RECOMMENDATIONS

### IF YOU'RE THINKING OF APPLYING TO HONORS ENGLISH

Students in Honors courses are expected to have the following characteristics:

- High academic achievement and intellectual ability
- Self-motivation and self-discipline
- Good organizational skills
- Excellent written and spoken expression
- Avid interest in reading different types of text
- Ability to work independently and collaboratively
- Focused attention on task in class with little to no disruption
- Exemplary attendance.

### HONORS EXPECTATIONS

Upon acceptance into the Honors program, students are expected to:

- Read the requirements for the summer assignment. The summer reading assignment is mandatory. Summer work may include the reading of books, journals, writing assignments, projects, etc. The summer reading program is an integral part of the first semester's work. A student who arrives unprepared will be strongly advised to transfer into core English.
- Maintain an 83% or higher grade in all Honors English courses in both semesters. Falling below an 83% may be grounds for a review to determine appropriateness of placement.
- Remain in the course for the duration of the year.
- Maintain high standards of academic integrity.
- Complete additional independent reading and writing assignments.
- Be in class every day. Excessive absences (below a 95% attendance rate —not due to school-related activities) may result in removal from the course.
- Complete all writing assignment. All essays are essential; therefore, late essays will not be accepted for full credit unless the teacher's prior permission is received. Unexcused late essays will receive reduced credit only but still must be done. No matter what the student's average is in class, a student who has failed to complete one or more essays will have an incomplete (I) in the class until all essays are submitted.

### HONORS PLACEMENT POLICY

Students who want the challenge of an Honors course must satisfy at least two of the three requirements to earn admission.

- **Previous Grades:** Earn an 83% in both the first and second semesters of the previous class in English. To enroll in ninth grade honors, students should have earned an A or B in their eighth-grade honors class or an A in regular English; exceptions can be made for serious students. Earning a grade below a B raises serious concerns about a student's commitment to honors/AP. In order to protect a student's GPA, any student who does not maintain at least a B may be advised to move to core English. If a student earns below an 83% and wishes to remain or take an honors English course, then he or she may be eligible by consulting and signing a waiver/contract with the honors teacher.
- **Placement Exam Scores:** Earn a score that demonstrates the level of "Proficient" or above on the STAR English/Language Arts in 8<sup>th</sup> grade and/or 9<sup>th</sup> grade year.
- **Recommendation:** A recommendation from their current English teacher.