



HENRY M. JACKSON HIGH SCHOOL

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Dear Prospective English 2 Honors Student, Parents & Guardians:

We would like to express our pleasure at having the opportunity to work with you this next year in English 2 Honors. As this is part of your continuing experience in a high school Honors class, it is important you understand what it means to be an Honors student at this academic level. This is a Pre-AP Literature and Language college preparatory course. Therefore, the Honors student can expect a more rigorous workload, including more reading, more writing, timed/impromptu writings, and deeper analysis. Remember, 10<sup>th</sup> grade Honors is an English credit that you have *elected* to take. Any student who enrolls in the Honors program is electing to work harder than if he/she enrolled in a regular academic class.

We set high standards in the classroom, both for ourselves and for our students. Each summer we attend university classes and/or the AP Institute in an effort to keep current with stimulating learning practices. Bringing this newly-acquired learning into our classrooms each year, we further our practice and your learning. As far as what you will be bringing to our learning environment, we expect each student to bring with him/her an open, inquisitive mind and respect for the institution of education, for fellow classmates, and for the instructor.

You are required to read *The Invisible Man* by Ralph Ellison **before** the start of first semester. Study groups, book clubs, or Spark Notes are recommended to augment (not replace) your summer studies. Read and analyze! Come the first week of school prepared to seminar and write about the book you read over the summer. *Invisible Man* will be immediately tested, in addition to being incorporated into classroom discussion and analysis. We will be doing comparative studies with other works you will read during the year. Required reading during the year may include but not necessarily be limited to: *Things Fall Apart* by Chinua Achebe, *Anthem* by Ayn Rand and *Siddhartha* by Herman Hesse. We will be using the Springboard level 5 book to guide our unit objectives, and the state of Washington Common Core Standards to focus our instruction of skills.

You will be required to read throughout each semester from outside reading books not read as freshmen. The Honors English book lists are on our teacher websites through Ms. Kalina's JHS website: <http://www.everettsd.org/Page/3000> linked as the Pre-AP book list. Our classes will target specific books, by genres, which correlate to the classroom novel. Begin choosing your reading material from these lists. Your choices for the outside reading must come from these lists (limit two books by one author (including your freshman reading)). You are encouraged to build familiarity with/exposure to as many different styles, time periods, subjects, etc as possible for advanced literacy and preparation for the AP Literature class and exam.

It is our pleasure to welcome you to an exciting, rewarding academic year in English 2 Honors. We look forward to the stimulating ideas and previous life experiences you will bring to this classroom.

Sincerely,

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