

August 16, 2010

Dear Parent/Guardian,

I am so excited about having your child in my English 11 class this semester. English 11 is a study of the works by American authors, and it is one of my favorite classes to teach! It is a survey class, which means we will study American Literature in chronological order, beginning with the Native Americans and working toward contemporary writers. The students are often familiar with many of the writers, such as Thomas Jefferson, Edgar Allan Poe, or Lorraine Hansberry. I believe this familiarity adds some comfort to the learning, and we are able to build from their prior knowledge. In addition to learning the typical literary elements of the literature, we will also learn about the social and historical influences of the works, and especially how we can personally relate to their ideas and themes.

Students will be expected to read a variety of works this semester. We will read essays, novels, plays, and poetry. I will also ask them to respond to these works in a variety of ways, such as through journals, class discussion, visuals, or essays. Students will continue to build their reading, writing, listening and speaking skills so that they can prepare for English 12 and post-secondary education.

I look forward to working with you and your child this semester. Please look for information regarding his or her progress on PowerSchool and expect progress reports to be sent home quarterly. Also, please feel free to contact me if you have any questions or concerns about expectations, assignments, or your child's progress. I want your child to have a successful semester in my class!

Sincerely,

Mrs. Shepard