

Dear Parent:

The College Board, which publishes the most widely used college admissions exams in the United States, recommends reading 25 books per year. Students must be independent, voracious readers who are willing to read for both information and enjoyment. By daily practice in reading, students form habits of thought and discourse which will stay with them throughout their lives.

The Honors English program is designated for motivated students. In addition to intense studies in grammar, vocabulary and writing, students enrolled in this program will explore classical and contemporary literature and will analyze and interpret dominant literary genres and themes.

The English Department, in an effort to continually challenge the Honors students, has implemented an Honors English Summer Reading Program. In order to provide students with reading that meets the criteria of both good quality literature and appealing reading, the department has selected books which engage the reader and help increase the student's fluency and reading level. The summer reading selections are listed at the bottom of this letter.

During the last week of school, students will be notified which teacher they must see in order to obtain the novels to complete the mandatory reading. As per school policy, students are responsible for replacement costs for any lost or damaged books.

Students will be assessed on these novels on the second day of the new school year. The assessment will incorporate the interpretation, analysis and application of literary elements which will include the components of plot, characterization, point of view, conflict, foreshadowing, irony, tone/mood, symbolism, theme, and figurative language.

Information regarding the Honors English Summer Reading Program can be accessed by visiting the N.S. website and clicking on the *Summer Reading Requirements* tab located under *Parent* or *Student Resources*.

We look forward to your continued support of our students as they strive to exceed the standard in academia and life. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Mr. Harry D. Lucas, English department chair, during regular school hours.

Sincerely,

The North Schuylkill Junior/Senior  
High School English Department

9<sup>th</sup> Honors English: Mr. Rice

*Animal Farm* - George Orwell

*Night* - Elie Wiesel

*Flowers for Algernon* - Daniel Keyes

10<sup>th</sup> Honors English: Mrs. Hoppel

*The Joy Luck Club* - Amy Tan

*Shoeless Joe* - W.P. Kinsella

*The Kite Runner* - Khaled Hosseini

11<sup>th</sup> Honors English: Mrs. Anderson

*Go Ask Alice* - Beatrice Sparks

*The Chocolate War* - Robert Cormier

*In Cold Blood* - Truman Capote

12<sup>th</sup> Honors English: Mrs. Minahan

*The Remains of the Day* - Kazuo Ishiguro

*Dracula* - Bram Stoker

*A Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man*

- James Joyce

Advanced Placement English: Mr. Rice

*1984* - George Orwell

*Lord of the Flies* - William Golding