

Spring 2017

To: Parents of Gifted and Talented Academy Sophomores
Re: Summer Reading Program

I look forward to working with the Sophomore students and embarking on our study of American Literature. The course, entitled The American Mosaic, seeks to draw together from many different times and places in American history the themes and experiences that define and explain the “American Experience.” The course will continue to prepare students to take Advanced Placement testing in the Junior and Senior years. As in past years, the coursework is substantial, rarely allowing class time for “reading.” The curriculum will focus on several major pieces of literature with shorter pieces and corresponding selections of other areas of the arts to complete the unit study. Each unit will feature an independent exploration by the student into further related material.

The summer reading program asks the student to read certain major works in advance, at a more leisurely pace, to be prepared for discussion in class at the beginning of school. The selections below introduce important themes and periods, along with a taste of many different cultures. One selected title will be a novel; the second selected title is an informative/instructional text. Students will turn in one assignment **the first day** of school, typed, in 12 point Times New Roman font, utilizing MLA format:

- 1. Annotations for *How To Read Literature Like a Professor* which follow the guidelines set forth.**

The selected novel is Truman Capote’s *In Cold Blood*, which will be discussed the first two weeks of school. The second book is a technical book aimed to assist students in “unpacking” prose. The book is Thomas C. Foster’s *How to Read Literature Like a Professor*.

Copies of these books may be found in local libraries or purchased. Barnes and Noble has copies of the novel readily available, inquire about student discounts. There may also be discount copies available on Amazon.com, Powells.com, BarnesandNoble.com, Alibris.com and many other bookselling websites. Sometimes used copies are sold for as little as two or three dollars on these sites.

Questions about the program or the year’s curriculum are welcome. You can easily reach me through email over the summer. Summer assignments can also be accessed online over the summer at www.ehsgiftedacademy.weebly.com.

Cordially,

Cristina Cabrera
English Teacher
cristinacabrera@u-46.org