

June, 2010

RE: ENGLISH – 10<sup>th</sup> Grade Honors Program

Dear Student:

As a college bound student, it is imperative that you read works of literary merit to further develop your excellent comprehension and analysis skills. One of the major reasons that you were selected for the Honors Program is that your reading skills are above average; therefore, the following summer reading has been assigned. During the first week of school, you will have the opportunity to demonstrate how much knowledge and insight you have obtained from these readings via discussions, objective tests, and essays.

During your summer break, you are required to read *The Crucible* by Arthur Miller and *The Scarlet Letter* by Nathaniel Hawthorne. These have been chosen because of their literary value and also because of their availability either in the public libraries or local book stores. It is highly recommended that you, as an Honors student, purchase your own copies of these works, enabling you to highlight relevant and pertinent passages and information.

In preparation for discussion in September, please complete the following written assignment and hand it in on the first full day of school.

The written assignment must be a well-written, one and one-half to two page typed essay in which you *carefully* develop the following suggested topic for the novel, *The Scarlet Letter*:

Discuss the author's use of symbolism and the internal and external conflicts in developing his overall meaning of the work. Keep in mind that the novel is, essentially, a "coming of age" novel wherein the youth's progression is more subtle than obvious.

Upon your return to school, you will have an additional writing assignment and class discussions on *The Crucible*, so be sure to be ready by the first full day of school.

We are taking this opportunity to welcome you to the 10th Grade Honors Program in English. Next year will be a challenging one for you and the keys to success will be your willingness to analyze the works of literature in our curriculum and the degree of effort you put forth during the school year. Have an enjoyable and "well-read" summer!

Mary E. Houghtaling  
Teacher of English

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Supervisor of Instruction