

## Honors English I (Pre AP) Student/Parent Commitment Form

Hello! The Capital High School English Department would like to welcome you to the next chapter of your life – a high school student. Though you still have to finish your eighth grade year, we look forward to your arrival at CHS in August.

You have received this commitment form because you have expressed interest in taking Honors English I (Pre-AP) as a freshman. This is an excellent choice if you are up for a challenging course that is intended to prepare you for college, improve your critical reading and writing skills, and prepare you for Advanced Placement (AP) courses offered in the junior and senior years. There are many benefits to taking AP courses, including the opportunity to earn six college credits per full-year class (if you score high enough on the course's AP exam), going to college with some general education requirements already fulfilled, and being well prepared for life after high school resulting from the skills you will gain in these classes.

Should you choose to take Honors English 1 (Pre-AP), you and your parents/guardians should understand that you will be required to complete a **summer reading assignment** that will be due the first day of regular classes in August. This will be one of the first grades in the gradebook, so it is important that you get the assignment completed. Forgetting to do the assignment is not a justification for counselors to change your class at the beginning of the year. The summer assignment will be distributed before the end of your eighth grade year. Also understand that you are going from a regular English class in middle school to an honors English class in high school, so expectations will be high. Please keep in mind that it is recommended that you have an A or B in 8<sup>th</sup> grade English, and the following steps must be taken in order to be registered in Honors English.

Before you can be officially enrolled in Honors English 1 (Pre-AP), you need to do a few things:

1. Fill in the information below, including signatures.
2. Read the Honors English I Syllabus and expectations. This is for you to keep!
3. Take this form to your English teacher for a recommendation signature.
4. Sign up for Honors English 1 on your registration form from the CHS counselor(s).
5. Attach this commitment form to your registration form.

### Please complete the information below.

Name (print legibly):

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8<sup>th</sup> grade English teacher's recommendation signature:

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Your signature:

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Parent/guardian signature:

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We look forward to seeing you in Honors English I in August and welcome you as a member of the Bruin family.

If you have questions, please email the Honors English I teachers, as follows:

Kevin Ward: [kward@helenaschools.org](mailto:kward@helenaschools.org)

Sue Baranek: [sbaranek@helenaschools.org](mailto:sbaranek@helenaschools.org)

## Syllabus and Other Expectations for Honors English I

In order to help you make an informed decision on whether or not Honors English I is a right fit for you, take a look at our syllabus for the class. Note that this is subject to change throughout the school year.

### Literature:

Novels in Honors I are chosen for their impact, difficulty, and complexity. Though some of the texts are shared with a regular English class, the depth and analysis that we will examine them from is significantly more detailed. Texts that we hope to engage with this year:

*The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-time Indian* by Sherman Alexie

*Animal Farm* by George Orwell

*Romeo and Juliet* by William Shakespeare

*Speak* by Laurie Halse Anderson

*The Odyssey* by Homer

Films directed by Tim Burton (Film Study Unit)

Optional texts: *Ender's Game* by Orson Scott Card; *The Hate U Give* by Angie Thomas

As this class is in preparation for AP classes your junior and senior year we will also be using parts of the 9th grade SpringBoard textbook. This is a textbook created by College Board and is designed to introduce argumentation and analysis concepts early so students have more success on their AP exams later.

### Writing:

There will be a minimum of 5 written pieces per semester, including process pieces and timed writes. As you enter into Honors, it will be expected that you already have knowledge of how to write a multi-paragraph essay. Throughout the year, we will focus on expanding and revising essays, including narratives, argumentative essays, informational essays, and style analysis essays.

### Homework:

Do expect to take home work frequently. This might include discussion assignments, reading, and written papers. We do not assign busywork in this class, but many of the concepts and work that we are doing cannot be contained to a single class period. It will be your responsibility to manage your time effectively and to complete assignments at home when necessary.

**\*You can keep this sheet to refer back to. Make sure you read through with a parent or guardian.**