

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

Hello! The Capital High School English Department welcomes you to the next chapter of your life – as 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 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 as honors English classes. There are benefits to taking AP courses:

1. The opportunity to earn six college credits per full-year class (if you score high enough on the course's AP exam). Earning these credits in high school costs far less than the thousands of dollars they cost in college. An AP test generally costs about \$95.
2. Heading off to college with some general education requirements already fulfilled.
3. Being well prepared for college because of the skills you will gain in these classes.

Should you choose to take Honors English 1 (Pre-AP), you and your parents need to understand that you will be required to complete a summer reading assignment that will be due the first day of regular classes in August. If you choose not to complete this assignment, you will receive a zero for it but will be expected to stay in the class for at least the first semester of your freshman year. (Failure to complete the summer reading assignment does not constitute a reason for dropping the class. Class sections are created based on registration requests, and there may not be room in other sections should you change your mind.) 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 8th grade 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 Expectations. This is for you to keep!
3. Take this form to your eighth grade 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.

Failure to return this signed commitment form will result in you being moved to a standard English I class.

Please complete the information below.

Name (print legibly): _____

8th grade English teacher's signature: _____

Your signature: _____

Parent/guardian signature: _____

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 or Susan Baranek: sbaranek@helenaschools.org

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 expectations for the class. Note that this is subject to change throughout the school year.

Literature:

Novels in the classroom include *The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian* and *Animal Farm*. We will also be reading works such as *Romeo and Juliet* and *The Odyssey*. Much of these readings will be completed outside of class, leaving class time for discussion and completion of other assignments. Your teacher may require you to read an outside reading book and complete a project every quarter as well.

The textbook that we will primarily use is aligned to AP courses and consists of assignments and activities that digs deep into texts, including short stories, poetry, and film analysis.

Writing:

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.