

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

Hello! The Capital High School English Department would like to take the time to welcome you to the next chapter of your education – sophomore year. Though you still must finish your ninth-grade year, we look forward to your coming year as a sophomore.

You have received this commitment form because you have expressed interest in taking Honors English II (Pre-AP) as a sophomore. 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 as honors English classes. 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), earning these credits for far less than the thousands of dollars they cost in college (an AP test generally costs about \$95), going to college with some general education requirements already fulfilled, and being well prepared for college because of the skills you will gain in these classes.

Should you choose to register for Honors English II (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 and that 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 sophomore 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 ninth-grade year. Also, understand that there will be continued high expectations as you move from English I or Honors English I to the next level of Honors English II. Please keep in mind that it is recommended that you have an A or B in English I or Honors English I, and the following steps must be taken in order to be registered in Honors English II.

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

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

(Failure to return this signed commitment form or failure to pick up your summer assignment will result in your being moved to a standard English II class.)

### Please complete the information below.

Name (print legibly): \_\_\_\_\_

English grade for 1<sup>st</sup> semester: \_\_\_\_\_ Overall GPA (as of the end of 1<sup>st</sup> semester): \_\_\_\_\_

9<sup>th</sup> grade English teacher's name (print legibly): \_\_\_\_\_

9<sup>th</sup> grade English teacher's recommendation signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Your signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/guardian signature: \_\_\_\_\_

We look forward to seeing you in Honors English II in August. If you have questions, please email the Honors English II teachers as follows:

Chelsey C. Davis: cdavis@helenaschools.org

Heather Parrish: hparrish@helenaschools.org

Amy Scheck: ascheck@helenaschools.org

## **Syllabus and Other Expectations for Honors English II**

In order to help you make an informed decision on whether or not Honors English II 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 the classroom include *The Joy Luck Club*, *To Kill a Mockingbird*, *Things Fall Apart*, and *Fahrenheit 451*. We will also be reading works such as *Much Ado About Nothing* or *Twelfth Night*. 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 a literature circle novel 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 dig deep into texts, including short stories, poetry, and film analysis.

### **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 homework almost every night in an Honors class. Oftentimes, late work will not be allowed as we move at a fast pace and the lessons will build upon themselves.

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