

May 7, 2009

Dear Parents of Students Enrolled in Advanced Placement English Literature and Composition,

I am excited that your child will be joining me in Advanced Placement English Literature and Composition during the upcoming school year, and I'd like to take this opportunity to share with you some of my requirements and expectations.

The AP English Literature and Composition course allows students to become better readers, thinkers, and writers. The emphasis of the course is on critical analysis of literature, which students will practice through written essays on a weekly basis. Writing assignments (many in-class) will make up the bulk of the semester grade; homework will consist primarily of reading assignments, review of class notes, and smaller out-of-class writings (poetry analyses, etc.). In order to succeed in both the class and on the AP exam, students must keep up on reading assignments and be prepared for each class period. Throughout the year, students will collect many handouts, notes, and other wonderful resources that will be of great value for exam study. I expect each student to maintain a 2½- or 3-inch binder specific to this course and have it with them during each class period.

Over the summer, students will be required to read two works, *Crime and Punishment*, by Fyodor Dostoevsky, and *A Doll's House*, by Henrik Ibsen. Please see the *Crime and Punishment* handout for information on how students will proceed with their summer reading assignment. We will also be reading many other works (both complete and excerpts) during the year. The school will not be providing texts; I encourage students to purchase their own (Amazon.com is a great resource), but they can certainly borrow books from the public library. Though some of the selections contain objectionable material, reading all of them is essential due to the nature of the course as well as passing the AP exam. I have been careful to select pieces that have been frequently used in past AP exams and are likely to be used in the future. I've included the reading list so that you can order over the summer.

All students enrolled in AP English Literature and Composition will take the College Board exam in May of 2010. The exam is three hours long, consisting of two sections: a one-hour multiple choice section and a two-hour free-response section. In the first section, students will answer 55 multiple choice questions testing their ability to analytically read prose and poetry from several periods; in the second section, students will answer three free-response questions requiring them to write critical essays on literary texts. Readers for the College Board will score the tests during the summer and then mail the final scores. Scores range from 1 to 5, with a score of 5 indicating the greatest likelihood to succeed in a college course. Depending on the college, a score of 3 or higher can earn the student college credit or advanced standing for their AP work.

AP English Literature and Composition is a college-level course; the expectations are high and work load difficult, but I believe your child is capable of succeeding in the program. Please encourage your child to contact me at any time with any questions, concerns, or difficulties. I am also available to you at any time, and I look forward to working with you and your child. I will check my email about once a week over the summer (lisag@cca eagles.org).

Abiding in Him,

Lisa Grosso
CCA English Teacher