

Summer Reading/ Learning - The HONORS Approach

Parents/ Guardians/ Students -

We are Meaghan Pogorek, Gabby Royal, and Erin Wright, the English 2 honors teachers for the 2023-2024 school year. As part of your enrollment in this course, summer reading is required. Please see the details below for the assignment and expectation. We are excited to try out a new approach to summer reading/ learning that we're calling HONORS.

What is the HONORS approach to Summer Reading/ Learning?

In the context of this assignment, this has a two-fold meaning. One, our reading will take an honors system approach. Students will not be assigned a particular text and there will not be a big test or major project as a means of assessment. Second, this is an honors class. This course is intended for students with a serious approach to their academics. Our expectations, even with an honors system approach to summer reading is that students are still approaching their work with academic honesty and integrity. Students looking for a short cut around their reading/ learning may struggle with our class this year. Although it is our hope this approach will curb that temptation.

Requirements:

Part 1: Reading

Our goal for ELA 10 Honors summer reading is simple: for our students to be reading. Rather than assigning a particular work for summer reading, students will decide what they read - books, magazines, newspapers, blogs, as long as they read approximately the length of three books (approximately 750 pages...this may sound like a lot but breaks down to an average of about 10 pages a day over break). They can read fiction, non-fiction, poetry, drama, informational text - any genre is acceptable. Students will be writing about their summer reading when they return from summer break but there will not be a big test or major project.

Our goals in this approach are to encourage a love of reading, foster trust with our students, and curb the temptation to be dishonest in our work. We want students to explore their passions through reading because they enjoy it, not because they feel accountable to a grade. It is our hope that through this approach to summer reading students will realize that they like to read and will want to continue reading.

Part 2: Cultural Experience

Being a student means being well-rounded and having experiences that illuminate the cultures around us rather than simply relying on academic reading for our understandings. Understanding literature goes beyond words on a page and involves delving into humanity, which is why good readers are those who have a wide variety of life experiences that they can connect to their reading. The experience the student participates in should be something NEW to the student, outside of their day to day routine. It should offer the student a different insight and new perspective. The experience does not need to have a direct connection to anything the student reads. As well, please note, while some of our suggestions are

local, Kansas City opportunities, you can absolutely engage in any of these experiences if you're traveling this summer!

Some ideas of a cultural experience:

- Going to Shakespeare in the Park. (On June 28, the North ELA teachers will be there and have a space reserved for North students and teachers)
- Watch a foreign film (with subtitles in your first language).
- Visit a historical site, museum, or landmark.
- Visit the Nelson-Atkins or another art gallery
- Attend a concert (band or music genre should be new to the student)
- Attend another play or musical
- Eat at an ethnic restaurant. Have the staff order for you! Some restaurants to consider:
 - Elsa's (Ethiopian)
 - Holy Land Cafe (Middle Eastern)
 - El Salvedoreno (Salvedorian)
 - Sohaila's Kitchen (Pakistani)
 - African Dream Cuisine (West African)
 - Anousone's (Lao and Thai)

Please let us know if you have any questions. At this point we don't know which student has which teacher so please include all three of us on emails. A response from any one of us will be on behalf of all three of us. As well, please note, we will likely not be checking work emails frequently over summer break so please reach out early and expect that a response may not be immediate.

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