

Westlake High School

Mt. Pleasant Central School District

West Lake Drive
Thornwood, NY 10594
(914) 769-8311

Dear Students,

Welcome to English 9 Honors! Selecting this course tells me you want to be challenged, stretched, and taught well, and I will do my best to do just that. 9H is an advanced course that moves at a quick pace; we read a lot, and we write a lot. As such, I am asking you to read three books over the summer and do some work to prepare you for the rigor of the class.

Please read the following over the summer:

- 1) *To Kill a Mockingbird* by Harper Lee
- 2) *Of Mice and Men* by John Steinbeck
- 3) A book of your choice

I will provide you with copies of the above texts, but I recommend buying the books to highlight and annotate directly in them. I completely understand if you choose not to.

I have prepared some materials on Google Classroom to set some context for *Mockingbird* and *Of Mice and Men*. Read this information BEFORE reading each book. For *Mockingbird*, read and annotate towards the ideas and questions located on Classroom. As you read *Of Mice and Men*, flag passages that correspond to the ideas on the next page. Finally, you can simply enjoy your choice book. **Please be aware that you will need all three books throughout September!**

You should also review the attached parts of speech notes. These are terms that you should already know as you enter 9H. We will review this topic within the first few days of school and have a quiz shortly after that.

See the next page for a detailed breakdown of the assignment. All work is located on Google Classroom.

The completed assignments are **due on the first day of class** and are a **prerequisite** for the course. You may be asked to write in response to these books within the first week of school. ***Students may be asked to consider English 9 Regents as an alternative placement if the assignment is missing, incomplete, plagiarized, or poorly done on the first day of class.*** If you have any questions over the summer, feel free to contact me at cdippolito@mtplcsd.org. Because of vacations and other commitments, I may not respond right away.

Have a great summer! I look forward to working with you in the upcoming school year.

Sincerely,

Mr. D'Ippolito

Breakdown of Assignments:

- 1) Read information on Google Classroom (Code: **yznqynx**) for *To Kill a Mockingbird*. After, read and annotate towards the focus questions, and take notes on the novel.
- 2) Read information on Google Classroom for *Of Mice and Men*. If possible, purchase a few packs of the RED, YELLOW, GREEN, & BLUE Post-It Flags. They can be the .47 inch wide [\[click here\]](#) or the .94 inch wide [\[click here\]](#). As you read, use the Post-It Flags to mark passages as follows:
 - **The Power of Friendships & Relationships**
 - **Hopes/Dreams OR The American Dream**
 - **Loneliness and Isolation**
 - **An Important Section or Quotation**
- 3) Read your choice book. Recommendations are located on Google Classroom.
- 4) Review the parts of speech. We will review them again as a class within the first two weeks of school and have a quiz on them. These are terms that you should feel confident in *before* entering 9H.

Google Classroom Code: **yznqynx**

Grammar you should already know coming into 9H:

PART OF SPEECH	BASIC FUNCTION	EXAMPLES
<u>noun</u>	names a person, place, or thing	<i>pirate, Caribbean, ship</i>
<u>pronoun</u>	takes the place of a noun	<i>I, you, he, she, it, ours, them, who</i>
<u>verb</u>	identifies action or state of being	<i>sing, dance, believe, be</i>
<u>adjective</u>	modifies a noun	<i>hot, lazy, funny</i>
<u>adverb</u>	modifies a verb, adjective, or other adverb	<i>softly, lazily, often</i>
<u>preposition</u>	shows a relationship between a noun (or pronoun) and other words in a sentence	<i>up, over, against, by, for</i>
<u>conjunction</u>	joins words, phrases, and clauses	<i>and, but, or, yet</i>
<u>interjection</u>	expresses emotion	<i>ah, whoops, ouch</i>
<u>article</u>	identifies and specifies a noun	<i>a, an, the</i>