



Emerly Martinez

Principal

June 2024

Dear Students:

Greetings! Welcome to English 3 Honors for the 2024-2025 school year. This course is often seen as a bridge to AP Literature, SUPA, and ECE, which are course options with college credit available during senior year. Consequently, this course is more rigorous and will require you to read, analyze, and write across multiple genres: short stories, novels, poetry, essays, speeches, and excerpts from memoirs, biographies, and autobiographies.

Because this course is seen as a pre-AP class because of the rigorous expectations in these higher-level classes, one of the course goals is for you to walk into a college-level classroom with a greater sense of mastery in reading, writing, speaking, and critical thinking. For the summer reading assignment, please choose **one** of the following books to read: *Just Mercy* by Bryan Stevens **or** *A Lesson Before Dying* by Ernest J. Gaines. Both books are available at no cost to you on Sora, accessible through the WPHS library website. You can find instructions on how to use Sora by going to the following link:  
<https://wphslibrary.libguides.com/c.php?g=154422>.

To demonstrate you have read the book, please write us a letter or an essay about your reflection and reaction to it. In your written piece, tell us what you enjoyed about the novel, what questions the book raises, and discuss the parallels between your book of choice and American society today. This writing piece should be a minimum of three paragraphs. Please be prepared to submit this written response on the first day of school.

For your summer reading assignment, it is important to submit only original work to maintain academic integrity and foster genuine learning. This allows you to truly showcase your unique ideas and creativity and gives your new teacher an opportunity to get to know you and your voice. Embracing your own voice not only strengthens your skills but also makes your learning experience more rewarding and enjoyable.

In September, you will be asked to demonstrate and apply your knowledge of both books. You will be expected to recall specific details from both texts in a formal reading assessment.

We look forward to meeting you in September! Have a safe and healthy summer.

Sincerely,

Jessica Livingston

Patricia Melcher