

Orchard Park Central School District

2240 Southwestern Blvd. West Seneca, NY 14224



David Lilleck
Superintendent

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Dear Incoming Honors Student:

According to school records, you intend to take Honors English 9 next year. We are delighted you are willing to commit the time and effort this course requires, and we are sure you will have an enriching experience.

Honors English 9 follows a very demanding curriculum. To prepare for this, you will have two tasks over the summer: (1) read *Circe* by Madeline Miller and *The Old Man and the Sea* by Ernest Hemingway and (2) master an initial list of honors-level vocabulary words.

For the reading task, please do the following:

- Take **detailed notes** as you read. Your annotations should amount to a serious dialogue. **Simply underlining is not enough.** We expect substantive sentences, so if there is not sufficient room in the margins, feel free to use separate paper or post-its.
- Ensure the notes are **your own** and not *in any way* derived from online summaries/analyses or AI-generated material. Avoid consulting outside resources so that your responses remain unique and clearly your own.
- Convey originality by expressing your **opinions** on both the plot and the author's stylistic choices as well as by making **connections** (personal, historical, and literary) to the text. **Do not robotically summarize.**
- **Note and define** unfamiliar words and mark any passages you found **confusing** or **difficult** (then reread them!).
- Keep your hard copies of the books on hand for our discussions in September.

For the vocabulary task, please do the following:

- **Define the vocabulary words** on the back of this letter and **identify the part of speech** for each.
- Make sure you understand the definitions and are able to **comfortably** and **accurately** use the words in a sentence. Aside from appearing frequently on the SATs, these words provide a useful framework for literary criticism and rhetorical analysis, and we will expect you to use them effectively in class discussions and written assignments.

Finally, the reading assigned here is not meant to serve as your only summer reading. In fact, reading a range of independently-chosen books and articles that are aligned with your interests will provide a solid foundation for your first year in high school. We cannot emphasize enough how much this supplemental reading will strengthen your comprehension, sharpen your writing, prepare you for Regents and AP exams, and augment your vocabulary. So please, read on your own as well!

We're looking forward to meeting you and working with you in the fall.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Farrell and Mrs. Snowden-Fargeat

Honors English 9 Summer Vocabulary List

1. allude
2. analogous
3. anecdote
4. arbitrary
5. assert
6. brevity
7. concede
8. corroborate
9. denounce
10. eloquent
11. imminent
12. impede
13. implicit
14. indifference
15. obsolete
16. oppressive
17. prevalent
18. reciprocate
19. refute
20. speculate
21. substantiate
22. undermine
23. underscore
24. unobtrusive
25. viable