

SUMMER READING - ENGLISH 11 HONORS

June 2010

Dear students and families:

In preparation for English 11 Honors, each student is required to accomplish the summer assignment outlined on the back of this letter.

The English 11 Honors curriculum at Mohonasen High School is designed to deepen and reinforce insights and skills gained from English 10 Honors, which expand a student's ability to think, read and write critically. The structure of the curriculum challenges students to explore connections between assigned and independently read works as well as with the events and ideas of the past and of the present.

The major historical works within the curriculum may include: *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* by Mark Twain, *The Crucible* by Arthur Miller, *Ethan Frome* by Edith Wharton, *A Farewell to Arms* by Ernest Hemingway, *The Catcher in the Rye*, by J.D. Salinger, *The Fountain Head* and *Anthem* by Ayn Rand, *Cat's Cradle* by Kurt Vonnegut, *A Heartbreaking Work of Staggering Genius* by Dave Eggers, *The Things They Carried* by Tim O'Brien and *The Grapes of Wrath* by John Steinbeck. *Macbeth* and *King Lear* are also included to continue students' study of Shakespeare. Most writing assignments will model the English Comprehensive Regents tasks or the new writing section of the SAT. Later in the year we will focus on creative and personal writing.

If a student chooses not to continue with the honors curriculum, it is the responsibility of that student to contact the high school guidance office for the appropriate summer reading assignment for English 11.

If you have any questions about the assignment, please feel free to contact the guidance office at 356-8320 or Mrs. Lisa Cutting, English Administrator at 356-8345. Summer Reading is also posted on the Mohonasen website: www.mohonasen.org

SUMMER READING ASSIGNMENT - ENGLISH 11 HONORS

- A. You may wish to purchase your own copies of the books listed below so that you can highlight passages and take notes in the text. You must read both of the following:

Cat's Cradle by Kurt Vonnegut

The Life of Pi by Yann Martel

Attention: Students should be aware that the first 100 pages of *The Life of Pi* are very different from the rest of the novel. Most students have said they found it very engaging after that point (when an exciting, bizarre adventure begins!). Please read the first section, but keep in mind that you may like it a lot more once you get to the next section.

- B. Take detailed notes while reading, outlining each author's use of literary elements and techniques. Include any and all that apply: theme, structure, point-of-view, setting, characterization, conflict, symbolism, irony, foreshadowing, flashback, etc. Support these observations with specific and relevant details from the novels. Students should be able to direct the class to specific parts of the texts to illustrate their ideas (by referring to page numbers, transcribing quotes or brief passages, etc).
- C. After reading each work, students should write a reaction/response paper in which they articulate what they liked or disliked about the texts, what they understood or were confused by in the texts, and how they think the two texts relate to each other. The reaction papers should be at least 500 words each.
- D. On the first day of class students should be prepared to write an analytical essay on the works *in class*. The essay will be graded and will be used to begin English Regents preparation and review.