Dear Honors English I Student:

I would like to welcome you to Ponderosa High School. I am delighted that you have signed up for the English I Honors program for the 2021-2022 school year. I want to take the time to let you know about the course and about my expectations.

The Honors English I class is designed to provide students with a challenging, rigorous, and accelerated English curriculum in order to prepare you for future Honor English classes, Advanced Placement classes, collegiate work, and your future career. The Honors English I course requires a very disciplined and organized approach to learning and you will be working and studying every day. The course will move quickly from one work of literature to the next and it is your responsibility to keep abreast of the assignments and reading. The expectations are high and the course is demanding. You should not have signed up for this class if you do not really want to put in the time it takes to be successful at this level so early in your high school career. Think seriously about the amount of time you will have to commit to this course and your interest in the course material. If you are willing to enter a mature learning environment, put in extra time, cooperate with others, and take constructive criticism to become better, your experience will be both positive and enjoyable.

Because we will be covering a lot of ground, I have created a summer assignment. This will provide a baseline of your skills and study habits. Have the following assignment on the first day of school. The requirements for this assignment are attached.

Finally, the English I Honors course is a survey of literature including poems, short stories, dramas, and novels. Students in the Honors programs generally purchase their own books so that we may learn and practice annotation skills and have a greater flexibility in the titles we offer. Gently used books with minimal previous annotating is also encouraged to save costs. If finances are an issue, students can borrow the book from the library and use sticky notes for annotation purposes. I am finalizing new curriculum for the school year, therefore students will get a list of these texts on the first day of school.

I look forward to meeting you and working with you next year. If you have any questions, please contact me before the start of school. Enjoy your summer!

Sincerely,

Miss Villari
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English I Honors
2021-2022 Summer Assignment

There are two components to your summer assignment; you will need to read two books over the summer.

TASK #1: All students must read *The Alchemist* by Paulo Coelho

Your first task for the summer is to purchase and read the novel. Bring your novel to class and be prepared to discuss, write about the book, and answer questions when you come to class during the first week of school. While you do not need to analyze or annotate the novel, you are encouraged to take notes in the margins, highlight, or write on sticky notes within the text to recall information.

TASK #2: The second requirement is to read a choice book (any Young Adult (YA) novel).

Your second task for the summer is to read a choice YA novel. (You do not need to purchase this novel, but if you borrow it from the library or read an online version, you will need to bring a copy of the book for the first week of class. Peers need to be able to see the book). During the first week of class, each student will introduce himself/herself and his/her book choice. Students will prepare a presentation about the book as a book talk and should be able to summarize and explain why you would recommend this book to the other students in the class. Peers in class will have the opportunity to look through the book to see if they are interested in reading it.

Book Talk Requirements

Directions: Students need to type up the planned book talk and have a hard copy available on the first day of class.

- Introduce the title and author of the book.
- Explain the genre of the book.
- State a few things about the author that you researched.
- Summarize the story. (Don’t give anything away!)
- What did this book make you think about more deeply or differently about?
- Read your favorite passage from the book (should be a paragraph to a page) and explain why you liked this passage most.
- Explain why would you recommend this book to your peers.