

## Buchanan High School 2012-2013 School Year Honors/AP Placement Agreement

The Honors and Advanced Placement English classes at Buchanan High School are designed to attract and challenge students who have strong reading, writing, and thinking skills and who work well in an accelerated, demanding classroom environment with a faster pace, higher expectations, and more rigorous and analytical skills required. A commitment to enroll in these courses must be taken seriously. AP and Honors English classes at BHS are challenging, rigorous courses; therefore, students are not guaranteed an "A." The benefits of the Honors/AP program go beyond the grade achieved; it offers students the opportunity to stretch their academic and intellectual abilities as well as prepare them for college-level work. Students completing an AP course receive a weighted GPA in which an A= 5 points, B= 4 points, C= 3 points, D= 1 points, and an F= 0 Points.

In addition, the Advanced Placement classes are designed to develop the students' abilities as critical thinkers and offer them a collegiate course with **college-level expectations in reading, writing, and critical thinking**. As sanctioned by the College Board, these courses require higher level practices in order to succeed including: excellent organizational skills, strong study habits, the ability to work independently, and a robust measure of interest and commitment. The AP courses are aimed at preparing students for the AP examination in May. According to College Board, over 31 percent of colleges and universities consider a student's AP experience when awarding scholarships and 85 percent of colleges and universities report that a student's AP experience favorably impacts admissions.

### **Recommended prerequisites for enrollment in Honors and AP English classes:**

- Scored at the "Advanced" level on the 2011 CST in English-Language Arts OR
- Earned an "A" in his or her current English class and a strong recommendation from the current English teacher

Students should come to class **on the first day of school** having read the following pieces of literature. A deep, textual understanding of the literature is necessary to participate in the assignments and activities in class. These books are available in libraries or can be purchased.

### **English 9 Honors**

- *Cold Sassy Tree* by Olive Ann Burns (1986)
- *The Red Pony* by John Steinbeck

### **English 10 Honors**

- *A Separate Peace* by John Knowles
- *The Heart is a Lonely Hunter* by Carson McCullers

**Advanced Placement Language & Composition**

- *Death of a Salesman* by Arthur Miller
- *The Great Gatsby* by F. Scott Fitzgerald

**Advanced Placement Literature & Composition**

- *Heart of Darkness* by Joseph Conrad
- *The Awakening* by Kate Chopin
- *A Doll's House* by Henrik Ibsen
- Books of the Bible (NIV suggested): Genesis, Matthew, Mark, Revelation

In addition to the required reading, you can expect the following assignments upon your return to school:

- A diagnostic grammar review exam based on the California State Standards for Honors 9 and 10
- An objective test on the book(s) read over the summer
- A timed writing (in-class essay) covering one or more of the pieces of literature
- Additional assignments such as round-table discussions, drafted essays, multimedia projects, etc.

**All students must complete the summer reading and their respective assignments regardless of transfer or enrollment date.** If you are unprepared to participate due to lack of responsibility on your part, your semester grade will be seriously affected. If you decide after a few weeks in an AP or Honors class that you would like to transfer to a less difficult class, be aware that your grade will transfer with you. If you have any questions regarding this information or the Honors and AP programs in general, please feel free to contact your counselor or the English Department Chair, Sara Hanson.

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**By signing below, you are acknowledging that you have read and received the above information and are aware of your commitments and responsibilities as an Honors/AP student.**

	9	10	11	12
Student Name	Grade			

Student Signature	Date

Parent Signature	Date

**PLEASE RETURN THE BOTTOM OF THIS FORM TO MRS. DENNING IN OFFICE 100 NO LATER THAN FRIDAY, MAY 4, 2012.**