



Board of Education

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June, 2021

Dear THHS English 3 HL 1 Student:

Welcome to the first year of your English/Language A Literature course for the IB program!

In IB English literature, your teachers are committed to provide you with a learning environment that will give you the tools to travel a path that is intellectually stimulating based on solid curriculum, enrichment activities, and opportunities to grow as a reader, thinker, and writer. In order to begin the work that is required to successfully complete the IB assessments, as well as to prepare you for the standardized testing tied to college admission, we will use the Summer Reading Assignment (SRA) to engage in critical reading strategies that will result in the level of analysis and commentary tied to the literary selections you will study over the next two years.

Please read and thoroughly annotate John Steinbeck's *The Grapes of Wrath*. The annotations should reflect the type of margin notes you have been asked to make in your English 1 or 1H and English 2 or 2H classes. These notes should not be superficial and should not be based on external sources, such as Wikipedia or SparkNotes. Everyone will not note the same elements, but everyone should demonstrate some level of independent, literature interpretation skills.

To assist you with making meaning and connecting with the text, please complete the following before reading the novel. View background info on the Dust Bowl by using YouTube: "The Dust Bowl Episode Uncovering the Dust Bowl PBS." Visit the National Steinbeck Center at Steinbeck.org. Under the About John tab, go to the Biography link and read the bio. Information.

Also, please read and annotate the collection of essays by Joan Didion in her nonfiction work, *Slouching Towards Bethlehem*. Reading literary nonfiction requires a different skill set than reading a short story or novel; however, be sure to identify ways in which Didion's style impacts you, as well as any threads among the essays and how the work is culturally relevant.

All students will be required to complete a writing sample based on the SRA during one of our first, class meetings. Additionally, you will be asked to take an objective test on these selections and participate in various group activities. You will not need copies of these books on the first day of class, but you will be asked to have them available on the second or third day, depending on the bell schedule and any adjustments to the instructional model we will use to open the school year.

Also, both of these works will be linked to formal IB assessments. You will receive more information about this as we go over the complete, two-year curriculum early next year.

I encourage you to do as much reading as possible over the summer. If you need some additional ideas, please check the California Department of Education website. Recommended literature can be found there.

I hope you have a healthy and relaxing summer; I look forward to meeting you in August.

Sincerely,

Ms. Donovan-Stewart