May 12, 2023

Dear Honors Students and Parents of Honors Students,

Congratulations to the students for their aspirations to excel in Language Arts by taking Honors level English next year! Students entering any Honors English, grades nine through twelve, have a summer reading and/or writing requirement to fulfill before the first day of school. Students will be assessed on these assignments during the first week of school.

Students entering Honors 9 English need to acquire a copy of *Things Fall Apart* by Chinua Achebe. It is highly recommended that students purchase the book so that they may write in it and have those notes available in September when school starts.

To prepare for discussion and assessment the first week of school, students should take notes for each chapter in answer to these questions: *What are the strengths and weaknesses of Okonkwo?* *Are his traits admirable?* *Why or why not?* *Which other characters have importance throughout the plot? What do those characters teach us about Okonkwo?* *How does the culture of the Ibo tribe differ from our culture?* Students should be sure to include page numbers of examples if notes are on a separate paper from the text, or use Post-It notes to mark significant passages in their book (along with notes as to *why* they marked that page). These notes will be used for the assessment.

Honors 9 students will be participating in a discussion about *Things Fall Apart* during our first week of school, and will then write a 5-paragraph essay after our class discussions.

I’m looking forward to meeting each of you and the meaningful discussions we will have together.

Sincerely,

Steven Seamandel

Honors 9 English Teacher