*(Copied and pasted from the MHS Facebook page)*

Dear Parents,

Millsap High School is proud to offer Pre-AP and AP English courses this next school year.  Pre-AP and AP English courses offered in grades 9-12 are designed to develop the skills necessary for success in the courses and the AP exams available upon completion of the AP courses.  Students who are successful on AP exams may receive credit for college English courses, depending on their scores and the colleges to be attended.

The AP exams are rigorous and exposure to a variety of literature will assist students when taking the exams.  Therefore, students who enroll in Pre-AP or AP English courses are expected to complete a summer reading assignment.  Summer reading assignments provide many advantages for students, including building and maintaining skills over the summer, developing an understanding of course expectations, promoting independent learning, and stressing the importance of being a lifelong learner.

Your student has requested to take AP English 4, AP English 3, Pre-AP English 2, or Pre-AP English 1 for the upcoming school year.  For the summer of 2016, your student needs to carefully read the corresponding title listed for the course for which he/she enrolled and complete the reading journal assignment.  The completion of the reading and the journal will be due on the first day of school.   Books may be checked out from a local library or purchased on-line or at a local bookstore.

Pre-AP English 1 – The Old Man and the Sea by Ernest Hemingway

Pre-AP English 2 – Of Mice and Men by John Steinbeck

AP English 3 – Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass by Frederick Douglass

AP English 4 – The Thirteenth Tale by Diane Setterfield

**Reading Journal Instructions**

For this novel, keep a reader-response journal as you read in a one subject spiral notebook.

1. Title your journal the name of the novel.

2. Draw a line down the middle of the page.

3. Left side: put page number in margin and copy meaningful passages from the book – perhaps a bit of dialogue, a description, a character's thought(s), or the use of a specific literary element that catches attention (such as symbolism or allusion).

4. Right side: write your response to the passage – Why did you choose it? Did it puzzle or confuse you? Does it have an important significance or clarify your thinking?  Does it remind you of something? What does it mean to you?

a. If you choose to comment on a personal experience, be sure to connect it to what is happening in the story at that point so I see your reaction to and understanding of the novel.

b. Realize that these entries are NOT a summary or paraphrasing of your reading.  They are your RESPONSE to the passage. Journals that only summarize the story will be unacceptable.

c. A good, thoughtful, developed response is no less than 5 sentences. Seriously, the sentences will be counted.

5. Each book will differ in the amount of entries.  Directions for each book are given below.

• The Old Man and the Sea has 4 parts.  Students reading The Old Man and the Sea need to write three entries for each part.  This is a total of 12 entries.

• Of Mice and Men has 6 chapters.  Students reading Of Mice and Men need to write an entry for each chapter.  This is a total of 6 entries.

• The Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass has 13 chapters.  Students reading The Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass need to write an entry for each chapter.  This is a total of 13 entries.

• The Thirteenth Tale is divided into four parts.  Each of these parts has several chapters.  Students reading The Thirteenth Tale need to choose four chapters from each part and write an entry for each.  This is a total of 16 entries.

6. Remember that this journal needs to be neat and adhere to all grammar, punctuation, and usage rules.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to call MHS ([940/682-4994](tel:940/682-4994)).  Thank you.

Sincerely,

Tammy Addison, Principal

Beth Adkins, English Department

Tracy Newell, English Department

Rachel Stull, English Department