

*SO YOU THINK YOU WANT TO BE IN HONORS ENGLISH 10?*

Dear Prospective Honors 10 Student,

Sophomore English focuses on world literature – so does Honors 10. We read novels and plays that are set in Greece, Rome, China, Russia, India, and England. However, Honors English 10 includes a considerable study of the English language (e.g., diction/syntax/style), vocabulary, rhetoric, style and literary analysis. We spend a lot of time discussing how sentences work: how some sentence structures obscure meaning and others clarify meaning, or how certain sentence structures appeal to emotion. Before you choose to enroll into Honors 10 English, you should think about whether that focus sounds interesting to you, and you should talk to people who have already taken this class. Here are some other considerations:

1. Honors English 10 is an accelerated class; we work very hard and we do not waste time.
2. Students who have trouble completing their homework regularly or who complete homework with minimal effort do very poorly in, or even fail, this class.
3. Students who score in the top 15% of standardized tests (in English) usually have the most success in this class.
4. Cheating and plagiarism will not be tolerated. Remember, it is a privilege to be in this class. If you have to cheat to survive, you are in the wrong class.
5. Although we do many group activities and creative assignments, I impart a lot of information orally. You must be able to listen intently and take notes. Students who have difficulty listening will have ample opportunity to build that skill, but students who continue to “space out” during class will not do well.
6. Expect an **average** of 30 minutes to 1 hour of homework every night.

Being in this class is a choice, so I assume that students who choose to be here really want to learn. Make sure that you are highly motivated to learn before you sign up for this class. If your primary motivation in signing up for Honors English 10 is parental or peer pressure, or because you are concerned about what your transcript looks like, you should reconsider your choice. So, as Mr. Creighton says, “Make good choices.”

Sincerely,

Mrs. Violette

P.S. All Honors English 10 students must complete a summer assignment. This assignment can be accessed on the OHS website (click on “Departments,” “English,” “Violette,” “Honors 10”).

---

My parent/guardian and I have read this letter, and I understand the commitment I am making.

---

student signature

date

---

parent signature

date