



PARKLAND HIGH SCHOOL

“Educating For Life”

Parkland School District

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Dear Parents of Students Taking Honors/AP Courses:

Beginning with the summer of 2008, all students who enroll in an honors level or Advanced Placement course in science, social studies, English or math will be required to complete a summer assignment for the course. These assignments were developed so that students can focus on new course content from the beginning of the school year instead of reviewing previously-learned material during the first several weeks of the school year. This is particularly the case in math and science. In English and social studies, students get a head start on the curriculum, allowing sufficient time for studying the more rigorous parts of a course. Whether reviewing material or learning new, students benefit from a less compressed schedule during the school year. It is our belief that students will be better prepared to meet the challenges of our most demanding subjects by completing the summer assignments.

Although the summer assignments are self-explanatory, we realize that a student may have a question about them. For this reason we have designated “point persons” who will serve to answer specific questions for any summer assignment within its respective major content area. Listed below are the names of the contact teachers and their email addresses if your child has a question about an assignment.

Math: Mrs. Melodie Stinner (stinnerm@parklandsd.org)
Science: Mrs. Susan Baranek (baraneks@parklandsd.org) Available after July 1, 2008
English: Mr. Timothy Schwarz (schwarz@parklandsd.org)
Social Studies: Mr. David Martin (martind@parklandsd.org)

All assignments will be listed on the middle schools’ website as well as the Parkland High School website at the beginning of June. You can access the PHS site directly by logging onto <http://psdweb.parklandsd.org/phsweb>. Click on “Links,” and then click on “Honors/AP Summer Assignments.” Click on the title of the course, and all of the necessary assignment information appears for that course. Additionally, a link labeled “Close Reading” is available as a resource for the Honors and AP English assignments, as well as this letter of explanation.

Depending upon the course, some books may be distributed in the student’s current honors class. Others will be directed to sign out a book at the PHS Library after final exams. You may do this between 10:00 am – Noon and 1:00 pm – 3:00 pm, Monday through Friday, with the exception of July 4 and 7, when it’s closed. Please ask the library clerk for assistance. It is very important to pick up the book(s) and print the assignment packet(s) as soon as possible. This is especially important if your child enrolls in multiple honors/AP courses or plans a vacation. Please be aware that all students planning to take honors/AP courses must complete the summer assignments, including those currently registered and those who will be transferring into these courses after the start of the year. There are no exceptions.

We believe that students will find the summer assignments both stimulating and challenging. We encourage you to help your child manage time so that he/she can devote proper attention to the assignment(s) without stress. Thank you in advance for your continued support of Parkland and your child’s education.

Sincerely,

Jane H. Barthold
Assistant Principal