Welcome to AP English Literature and Composition.

Students and Parents, please carefully read the following information:

This class is a rigorous and intensive course taught with the same content, approach, and expectation of a college level class. Unlike the SAT, which tests students on high school knowledge, the AP test is designed to test students’ knowledge of a college level class. If a student passes an AP test, he/she receives college credit. This course is designed to introduce seniors to college-level analysis, discussion, and comprehension of literature from the sixteenth through the twentieth centuries. We will concentrate on works of “recognized literary merit” according to the standards set forth by the College Board Advanced Placement Program. In addition to the obvious rigorous schedule of readings, the course will also stress the skills necessary to read critically, think clearly, and write concisely. Critical thinking and analysis skills touch all aspects of one’s life and are not just applicable to analyzing literature. With critical thinking and analysis skills, one can expect to be successful for life.

With that in mind, I am excited about your interest in this challenging and rigorous college level class. The information below covers part of the background work necessary for a successful academic year. The required summer work enables AP classes to examine some of the material necessary to pass the AP exam in May. It is important to understand this AP class is an intense, college-level course, and much of the reading required will be completed outside of class. The summer reading is your first opportunity to show your ability to work independently. I hope you will enjoy the reading assignments. Please follow instructions and you should be fine.

The books listed in each section below are the suggested texts for completing the summer work. Any book or online source containing the required text is acceptable. Be careful with summaries and Spark Notes-type websites as they will not provide enough information to help you pass the test which is 10% of your first semester grade. You cannot get an A without it and it will already be difficult to get an A.

Read the following books and portions of books. While there will be no written work for the reading, you will be given a test on the first day of school that is 10% of your first semester grade. The test will be extensive so make sure you do the reading.

1.) Greek and Roman Mythology: The following list of reading is taken from Mythology: Timeless Tales of Gods and Heroes by Edith Hamilton. $7.50 ISBN: 0-446-60725-8. Read all the stories listed below. You will be tested on these stories the first day of school.

### PART ONE

| I. The Gods |
| a. The Titans and the Twelve Great Olympians |
| b. The Lesser Gods of Olympus |
| c. The Underworld |
| d. The Lesser Gods of Earth |
| e. The Roman Gods |
| II. The Two Great Gods of Earth |
| a. Demeter (Ceres) |
| b. Dionsysus (Bacchus) |
| III. How the World and Mankind were Created |
| a. Prometheus and Io |
| b. Flower-Myths: Narcissus, Hyacinth, Adonis |

### PART TWO

| I. Cupid and Psyche |
| II. Eight Brief Tales of Lovers |
| Only the following: |
| a. Orpheus and Eurydice |
| b. Ceryx and Alcyone |
| c. Pygmalion and Galatea |
| III. The Quest for the Golden Fleece |
| IV. Four Great Adventures |

### PART THREE

| The Great Heroes before the Trojan War |
| I. Perseus |

### PART FOUR

| I. Thesus |
| II. Hercules |
| IV. Atalanta |

### PART SIX

| The Less Important Myths |
| a. Midas |
| b. Sisyphus |

2.) Oedipus the King (or Oedipus Rex): This play by Sophocles from Ancient Greece is found in The Three Theban Plays: Antigone, Oedipus the King, Oedipus at Colonus. $9.95 ISBN: 0-14-044425-4 (You only need to read Oedipus the King.)

Read the play. Be prepared to take a test on the first day of school.

3.) Biblical/Religious Allusion: Use any translation of the Bible, i.e., NIV, NAS, KJV. On-line bible sources are great. Read each story listed below. Be prepared to take a test covering the material the first day of school.

### OLD TESTAMENT

| Genesis 1-9 & 19 - Creation |
| The Fall |
| The Mark of Cain |
| Noah & The Flood |
| Sodom and Gomorrah / Lot and His Wife |
| 1 Samuel 17 - David and Goliath |
| Daniel 6 - Daniel in the Lion’s Den |
| Jonah - Jonah in the Belly of the Whale |

### NEW TESTAMENT

| Luke 2 - The Nativity |
| John 11 - Raising Lazuras from the Dead |
| Mark 11 - The Triumphal Entry |
| Mark 14, 15, & 16 - The Betrayal (Thirty Pieces of Silver) |

All appeals for help between June and August should go to melissa.clazie@alvordschools.org. I only check my district email once a week. I will NOT respond to emails the week before school begins, so you should plan to have your work done before then. Please read the instructions before sending me an email.