Dear Class of 2020,

Welcome to Honors ELA10! We are excited about the upcoming year and hope you are, too. In addition, we hope you are ready to challenge yourself as an Honors ELA student during your sophomore year.

Over the summer, it is important to keep reading, writing, and thinking critically in preparation for the upcoming school year. The English Language Arts Department at Blue Valley High School believes that integrating summer reading into the curriculum helps students transition into the new school year more quickly. According to the American Library Association, students who read over the summer are more likely to build lifelong reading habits and keep up their basic reading skills. Additionally, summer reading can generate interest in libraries, books, and reading in general.

You will find your Honors ELA 10 summer reading assignments below. You will be responsible for purchasing your book or checking it out from a local library, but you will need access to your book when you return to school in August so please plan your checkouts accordingly.

If you have any questions about your assignment(s) over the summer, feel free to email one of us. We’re looking forward to a great 2017-2018 school year! Have a great summer!

Mrs. Becky Knueven  
Honors ELA 10  
RKnueven@bluevalleyk12.org

Mrs. Amanda Durnal  
Honors ELA 10  
Acdurnal@bluevalleyk12.org

Mrs. Stephanie Braden  
Honors ELA 10  
SBraden@bluevalleyk12.org

This assignment is also posted on the school website.

I have received a copy of the 2017 Honors ELA 10 Assignment and will have my Fahrenheit 451 novel read and annotated by Monday, August 21st!

Name _____________________________ (printed)

Signature ___________________________
For your summer assignment, you need to read *Fahrenheit 451* by Ray Bradbury and annotate the novel as you read. For your annotations, focus on the following topics. These will present themselves as themes throughout the book, and we will study how topics develop into themes, but for now, these are your topics:

- EDUCATION
- TECHNOLOGY
- CENSORSHIP

To ensure you are adequately prepared for the beginning of the school year, you need to annotate the novel as you read and pay particular attention to these topics as they develop across the text but you will annotate for characters, plot developments, etc.

Not sure how to annotate? Below is the expectations for Blue Valley High AP readers and since Honors ELA 10 is meant to prepare you for AP, please start trying to do this with your novels. You may use sticky notes if you do not purchase a book. That will be just as useful and helpful in August.

**Annotation**

In short, annotation means “adding useful notes” to a text. Annotating your text is like having a conversation with it. As you read, engage the text by asking questions, commenting on meaning, marking events and passages you want to revisit, and identifying and more deeply appreciating the craft of the author and the tools the author employs to achieve any number of desired effects. This active engagement with the text will allow you to comprehend and remember more of what you read, and it will allow you to refer to specifics within the story with greater ease. Specifically, as you read your novel, you should do so with pencil in hand, marking the actual text.

From *How to Read a Book* (Mortimer Adler & Charles Van Doren)

If you have the habit of asking a book questions as you read, you are a better reader than if you do not. But . . . merely asking questions is not enough. You have to try to answer them, and although that could be done, theoretically, in your mind only, it is easier to do it with a pencil in your hand. The pencil then becomes the sign of your alertness while you read.

When you buy a book, you establish a property right in it, just as you do in clothes or furniture when you buy and pay for them. But the act of purchase is actually only the prelude to possession in the case of a book. Full ownership of a book only comes when you have made it a part of yourself, and the best way to make yourself a part of it -- which comes to the same thing -- is by writing in it. Why is marking a book indispensable to reading it?

- First, it keeps you awake -- not merely conscious, but wide awake.

- Second, reading, if it is active, is thinking, and thinking tends to express itself in words, spoken or written. The person who says he knows what he thinks but cannot express it usually does not know what he thinks.

- Third, writing your reactions down helps you to remember the thoughts of the author.
Note: If you find annotating while you read to be annoying and awkward, do it after you read. Go back after a chapter and then mark it carefully. You should be reading assignments twice anyway, so this isn’t any less efficient than marking as you read and then rereading the material.

For the sake of standardization of annotating for class and for grading purposes, your book notes should follow this format:

**Inside Front Cover:** Character list with small space for character summary and for page references for key scenes, moments of character development, etc.

**Inside Back Cover:** Themes, allusions, images, motifs, key scenes, plot line, epiphanies, etc. List and add page references and/or notes as you reread.

**Bottom and Side Page Margins:** Interpretive notes, questions, and/or remarks that refer to meaning of the page. Markings or notes to tie in with information on the inside back cover. These should be present on every page.

**Top Margins:** Plot notes -- a quick few words or phrases which summarize what happens here (useful for quick location of passages in discussion and for writing assignments). These should be present on every page.

**At the End of Each Chapter:** Write three questions that are at a higher level than simply knowledge or comprehension. These will be used for class discussion.

**Additional Markings:**
- **underlining:** done while or after reading to help locate passages for discussion, essays, or questions.
- **brackets:** done while or after reading to highlight key speeches, descriptions, etc. that are too long to underline easily.

**Marking and Note taking tips (optional):**
- Use one color ink to do initial marking while reading; then go back with another color or colors to mark more thoroughly once you have finished a larger section after you have had time to think about it and are able to see development of images, etc. more clearly.

- At chapter or section ends, stop to index page numbers on your front cover list of character information and traits as well as on your back cover list of themes, images, allusions, etc.

- Do underlining as you read and side margin notes as you finish a page or two.

- Add to side margin notes during class discussion also.

**Grading:** Since everyone's notes will be similar in format yet somewhat different in content (there is obviously no one correct phrase to have at the top of page 112 of *The Great Gatsby*, for example), book grades will be based on thoroughness, clarity, neatness, and apparent effort ("apparent effort" because I will obviously not read all the notes on every page of everyone's book).