



Home of the New Braunfels Unicorns!

NEW BRAUNFELS INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

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ENGLISH II Honors: Optional Summer Reading Assignment 2019

The optional reading assignment for English II is *Lord of the Flies* by William Golding.

The English II curriculum is focused on rhetoric and stylistic qualities found within various works of literature. Golding utilizes both of these elements well in his novel and draws the reader into a story that is hard to walk away from or forget. *Lord of the Flies* is an excellent read that appeals to mankind's need to have a functional society while exploring the darker sides of human nature. Do we know which side of morality we fall on? We all think we know what we would do when faced with terrifying circumstances but often find ourselves making moral choices we never thought possible. The power of persuasion found lying in the pages of this book would be easily transferred to our class study of rhetoric and argumentation.

One advantage of reading a challenging book over the summer is to prepare for the advanced rigor sophomores will have at the high school level. Students should read this book slowly and methodically, annotating as they read. Annotations should include: marking literary elements, interesting quotes, motifs and possible themes. This skill is used extensively in the English II classroom throughout the year. Please note that simply reading the plot synopsis online and "SparkNotes" will not suffice in preparing for the assessment at the beginning of the school year. These options do not provide enough content to annotate effectively and are often too vague and erroneous to be effective. The original work by Golding is what we expect students to read to be successful in class.

The most appealing advantage to participating in the summer read is the opportunity for an extra test grade during the first grading cycle. This assignment is a great way to begin focusing on class rank as the extra credit often makes a huge difference. Students taking this option should be prepared to take an objective exam to demonstrate reading comprehension upon their return in the fall. This could positively affect the overall grade average. If a student chooses not to do the summer reading, there will be no penalty, but the opportunity for an additional test grade will not be offered.

The due date for the summer reading activity is Tuesday, September 3, 2019
There will be no late submissions accepted.

Having an individual copy of the novel will allow students to annotate the text. Of course, students might also check out the book from the public library or at the front desk at NBHS. However, several websites offer the full text and may be found online by searching for "*Lord of the Flies* online text."

Have a great summer!

Summer Reading Assignment

Prompt:

Defend and/or criticize Ralph's actions as a leader. What were his motivations? Did he contribute to the tragedy in any way? Could he have acted to prevent any of the deaths? What would you have done differently in his situation?

Response must be **at least** one page in length.