

June 9, 2011

Dear Students and Parents,

Chesapeake Public Schools has implemented a suggested reading list for its high school honors students. Currently the Honors 11 curriculum at Western Branch High School requires students to read several novels during the semester. Two of these selections, *Fahrenheit 451* and *Grapes of Wrath* will be the focus of class lessons and discussions early in the semester. Students should read these selections during the summer so they will be prepared for those early discussions. Additional readings during the semester include, but are not limited to, *The Joy Luck Club*, *Raisin in the Sun*, *A Farewell to Arms*, and *Billy Budd*. Students will read and discuss some novels in their entirety, while only excerpts of others will be read and discussed in class.

Reading and studying scholarly works of literature benefit students in a variety of ways. For example, as part of the examination of our novels, we will discuss literary allusions from the works that students may use when they compose their SAT essay. In addition, the study of the classics increases vocabulary and improves writing skills.

I enthusiastically look forward to working with each of you during the 2011-2012 school year. I hope you have a relaxing summer while making time for your summer reading. If I can be of assistance this summer, please e-mail me at [cindy.bierman@cpschools.com](mailto:cindy.bierman@cpschools.com).

Sincerely,

Cynthia B. Bierman

Honors English 11 Teacher  
Western Branch High School