September, 2017

Dear Parent/Guardian:

In an effort to provide clarity and transparency, the FLHS English Department wants to communicate the protocol for earning both an honors credential at the end of English IR (9th grade English) and a teacher’s recommendation for English 2H (10th grade Honors English).

In ninth grade, English 1R is the required English course for all freshmen. All ninth grade students experience a common curriculum with common course expectations. As per the FLHS Course Catalog: *An honors credential can be earned within this class at the end of ninth grade.* To receive the honors designation, students must earn a 90+ average in the course. This designation is an opportunity available to any student who earns the 90+ average in English 1R.

**Please note: because 1R is not a separate honors course, the honors designation earned is not included in the weighting formula for a student’s cumulative average. It is simply a designation on the transcript at the conclusion of the course.**

In tenth grade, students take either English 2R or English 2H. English 2H is more rigorous in pacing, complexity and the style of work. The workload requires a greater sense of organization, collaboration, independence, and motivation to complete. Lengthy independent reading assignments are a regular part of this course. In order to ensure that students are appropriately placed, the English department has established the following requirements to earn a teacher recommendation for 2H:

* The students must earn a 90+ average in English 1R.
* The students must earn an 87+ average on **three** common writing assignments given during ninth grade.

The common writing assignments will be:

1. A literary analysis essay (connected to a text taught in ninth grade)
2. A Regents style prompt
3. A final exam essay in which students use two works of literature to support a claim

Please take a moment to review these protocols with your child and have a conversation about goals and expectations for his/her school year. Additionally, please sign the attached sheet indicating you that you have reviewed the policy with your child.

Thank you for your attention to this matter and your continued support.

Sincerely,

Paul Cullagh

Though this protocol is not a change in policy, we recognize that it may not have been communicated as effectively as we had hoped, leading to some confusion about the procedure. In an attempt to clear up this confusion, and ensure that all of our ninth grade students and their families are aware of this protocol, we are asking that you sign below acknowledging that you have read the letter outlining the opportunities and requirements for earning an honors designation for English 1R (9th grade English) and a teacher’s recommendation for 10H (10th grade honors English).

Again, please take a moment to discuss high school aspirations with your child and establish expectations and goals for the year ahead. As always, please do not hesitate to contact your child’s teacher with any additional questions or concerns.

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Student’s Name

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Teacher’s Name

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Parent/Guardian’s Name Printed

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Parent/Guardian’s Signature & Date