Welcome to Honors English 10! I am looking forward to meeting you in August!

The Summer Reading program, sponsored by the English Department at Padua Franciscan High School, is designed to entice students to read and recognize notable contemporary literature. We wish to engage student interest, encourage critical thinking, and challenge our students as readers. As such, some titles on the list may contain sensitive material and deal with more mature themes than some students may have encountered previously. The target audience of all the selected literature is young adults; moreover, the title selections for the Honors English courses are chosen in accordance with the AP program. Students are encouraged to find more information about all of the novels through the local library or through amazon.com. Additionally, the English Department strongly encourages students and parents/guardians to discuss the content, themes, and overall inherent literary value of the selected novels. Happy Reading!

Sincerely,
Mrs. Meghan Schepis

OVERVIEW:
Please consider purchasing your own copy of both of the novels! I highly encourage you to annotate as you read (taking copious notes directly in the margins and inside the novels will help you to connect more critically with the books). Consider your OWN analysis beyond what SparkNotes or other online sources tell you. I expect you to pay special attention to plot structure, characterization, setting, symbolism, tone, style, theme, literary/historical significance, etc. **You will be permitted to use your annotated books on your in-class test when we return in the fall. No other hand- or type-written notes will be permitted.**

ASSIGNMENT:
Please answer the following questions in your own words. Your answers should go beyond mere summary; I am looking for you to prove your answers with support from the novel, as well. Thus, your responses should represent thorough explication of the question itself **AND** be accompanied by **textual proof from the novel**, properly cited, as evidence of your response. Be sure to cite that support according to MLA format!

DIRECTIONS:
Summer Reading questions will be taken for approximately 50 points at the beginning of the school year. As such, I expect these questions to be both neat and professional when you turn them in. Therefore, please type (double-space!) your answers and set up your paper according to MLA formatting rules. You are not required to type out the questions for inclusion in your paper, but if that helps you, you are more than welcome to.

If you have any questions, feel free to e-mail me at mschepis@paduafranciscan.com. Good luck!
**Lord of the Flies by William Golding**

1. Compare and contrast Ralph and Jack; include physical appearance, character qualities, leadership ability, and style. Discuss the cause of the conflict between Ralph and Jack, the results of that conflict, and how, or if, the conflict is resolved.

2. Discuss the theme of the novel. What message is Golding trying to convey to his readers?

3. Discuss the following items from the novel as symbols: Piggy’s glasses, the conch shell, the fire, the pig’s head, and the character of Simon.

4. Gradually, the boys become less and less civilized and more and more savage. Trace the progression of their devolution.

5. What does it mean to say *The Lord of the Flies* is an allegorical novel? Discuss the significance, or, if you can, determine the literal meaning of the title. Explain.

**The Kite Runner by Khaled Hosseini**

6. We begin to understand early in the novel that that Amir is constantly vying for Baba’s attention and that there is dissension in their home. When Baba and Amir move to the United States, however, their relationship changes, and Amir begins to view his father as a more complex man. Discuss Amir’s fluctuating relationship with Baba. What accounts for the various changes in their relationship?

7. The strong, underlying force of this novel is the relationship between Amir and Hassan. Discuss their friendship. Why is Amir afraid to be Hassan’s true friend? Why does Amir constantly test Hassan’s loyalty? Why does he resent Hassan? Lastly, how does Amir’s realization about the truth of Hassan’s conception and birth bring about yet another change in their relationship?

8. Comment on the failed confession, dreams, carsickness, and dread that indicate subconscious stress on Amir. Then explain aspects of Amir’s atonement over the course of the novel that indicate a profound change of heart and mindset for his character.

9. Characterize the moral integrity and influence of Rahim Khan. Summarize the personal traits that strengthen his relationships with Baba and Amir. Discuss how Amir reevaluates his relationship with Baba after Rahim Khan’s revelations, and explain what Amir realizes about Rahim Khan’s long-term friendship.

10. Explain the significance of the title *The Kite Runner*, particularly as it applies to Hassan’s loyal service to Amir and Amir’s play with Sohrab.