

June 1, 2008

Dear Advanced English Student,

On behalf of the English department, we would like to welcome you to the Advanced Freshman English program for the 2007-2008 school year. We know that you are excited about the beginning of your high school career and the challenges that lie ahead of you in Advanced Freshman English. As your future teachers, we feel that it is important for you to have the opportunity to begin developing the English skills that we will be building upon this fall.

**Therefore, over the summer you will be required to read Fahrenheit 451 by Ray Bradbury and Boy's Life by Robert McCammon.**

One of the characteristics that we assume A-level English students share is a love of language and literature. We ask you to read these novels to continue to enhance and direct that interest and to keep sharp the critical thinking and reading skills that research tells us so often fall off over the summer. These novels will be the subjects of an objective test to be taken on the first full day, and Fahrenheit 451 will be the subject of an analytical in-class essay that will be written by Advanced Freshman English students during the second week of classes. To prepare students for the essay, the A-level teachers will instruct incoming Advanced Freshman English students in the structure of the essay, as well as lead a discussion over some major elements of the novel itself. It is strongly recommended that as you read you **keep in-depth notes that reflect more than mere plot summary**. These notes are strictly for your benefit and will be neither collected nor graded; note taking is an important component of the A level curriculum, a component we encourage students to start this summer. Make certain to bring these notes, along with the novels, to the first day of class. If you choose to purchase your own copies of the novels, feel free to utilize them in your note taking as well (underlining important quotes, defining vocabulary, etc.).

Copies of these novels are available at any bookstore or library. Extra copies have been ordered from Barnes and Noble in Town Square and Borders at Rice Lake.

We hope you enjoy reading Boy's Life and Fahrenheit 451 as much as all of us in the English department are enjoying our own summer reading. We encourage you to find a quiet place and escape into these fine works.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Amy Claud

Mr. Samuel Hadden

Mrs. Cynthia Hildebrand

Advanced Freshman English Teachers

## Recommended Instructions for Note-taking for Summer Reading

It is strongly recommended that you keep detailed notes as you read Boy's Life and Fahrenheit 451. However, do not simply summarize the plot. Instead, focus on the following:

- ❖ Defining unfamiliar vocabulary words
- ❖ Keeping a time-line of events
- ❖ Creating an organized list of characters including description, development, and change throughout the book
- ❖ Creating an organized list of themes and how they are developed, including important quotes
- ❖ Identifying literary devices
- ❖ Commenting on the authors' writing styles
- ❖ Noting your personal reaction to events and character
- ❖ Listing questions you have regarding character actions, plot events, authors' intentions, etc.

Remember to bring these notes and the novels to the first day of class.