

Dear Freshmen,

This letter contains important information for both you and your parents about your English class next year. As part of our efforts here at CCHS to improve grades and ACT test scores, the faculty and staff has implemented a summer reading program for all students grades nine through twelve. The truth is that students simply do not read as much as they have in the past. Sadly, this fact is often reflected in test scores and low first-year college grades. Good reading and writing skills are imperative for future success. Therefore, like many schools in the state and all around the country, we have made summer reading a part of our curriculum. I strongly recommend that you read your required novels early in the summer in the hopes that you will not have to stress over it at the end of the summer. You must have your assigned book(s) read before school begins in the fall.

Students will be taking an Accelerated Reader (AR) test to demonstrate that they have read the assigned reading; this will be one of the first grades in your English class, so start the year off on the right foot! I recommend that you take advantage of the school library's summer hours and take your AR test as soon as you finish reading the book(s). Library hours will be posted on the school website before school lets out for the summer.

If you selected **General English**, you will read one book: *Sleeping Freshmen Never Lie* by David Lubar

If you selected **Pre-AP English**, you will read **two** books: *Sleeping Freshmen Never Lie* by David Lubar and *Of Mice and Men* by John Steinbeck

You can find these books at Amazon/Ebay, any bookstore, or you may check them out from any library. There will also be several copies available at the CCHS library that may be checked out over the summer. Walmart will also occasionally have these books. Finding a copy is your responsibility.

Should you choose to purchase your books, you should be able to sell them to one of next year's freshman. If, and only if, you are absolutely unable to find one of these books, you should call the school at 280-2710 and leave a message for me; please include a phone number where I can return your call.

A Word of Caution:

The books listed for summer reading are meant to give you a positive literary experience of powerful writing. Some of the books we assign are young-adult literature; however, and may contain a mature perspective, scenes of violence, drug usage, or language that may be offensive to some. You need to exercise good judgment in reading these books. Reading works that investigate difficult ethical choices and actions does not ever condone or celebrate the choices that characters make.

I hope you will accept your summer reading assignment as a positive experience and will enter the ninth grade with a cheerful attitude. I am excited about meeting all of you in the fall!

Sincerely,

English 9 Teachers