

## AP Language/Composition - Mr. Carlin

Riverview Junior-Senior High School 100 Hulton Road Oakmont, PA 15139 412-828-1800

Dear Parents of AP English Language and Composition Students:

Your child has enrolled in the AP Language and Composition (APLAC) course for next year. It is a policy that once a student is enrolled in an AP Course, they cannot change their schedule to leave the AP class. Once enrolled, one of the requirements for this courses is completion of a summer assignment. I am writing to explain a bit about the assignment and the course.

I know that summer is an important rest and recharge time for us all, and that many of you have vacation plans that call for travel. It is my hope that by giving this assignment now, and by having it due when students return in the fall, your student will be able to plan their summer in such a way that they can relax a bit and also accomplish this important work. The summer assignment is attached to this letter. I will also meet with all AP students in the last week of the year to discuss the assignment and answer any questions. **It is a policy of the Riverview School district that once a student has enrolled in an AP Course, they cannot change their schedule to leave that AP class. So, once a student leaves for the summer, they are committed to taking the AP class, there is no exception!** The summer assignment will be due on the first day of school. Failure to do the summer work will not lead to the student being dropped from the course, instead, **incomplete** or missing assignments will result in a grade of zero for the assignment in the first 9-weeks. It is strongly advised that a student not begin the year with a 150 point deficit.

In addition to the summer assignment, I have also attached and will discuss with the students a copy of the Course Overview and Expectations. I invite you to review that document with your child.

The work may seem challenging at first and truthfully it should be challenging. In fact, as the fall progresses, it will become more challenging! The Advanced Placement English Language Course is a college-level course that is offered at the secondary level. Both the amount and complexity of the work is meant to match that found in a college course on Rhetoric. I cannot emphasize enough that A.P. is not an “honors” course, it is a course designed to qualify a student for college credit and it will have both the rigor and the work load of a college course. It is important for you to know that the teacher-student relationship is different in an AP course. Class time will be given to discussion, analysis, tracing broad themes, and working on interpretation and writing skills. Students will not encounter much lecture or note-taking especially after the first four weeks in the classroom. My role is to help them analyze and understand the rhetoric of the passages they read. In class I will coach and lead discussions about meaning and technique more than dispense facts. The good news is that over the course of this year the students will learn to work and succeed at that level. I urge you to encourage your child by engaging him or her in conversations about what they are doing in class and how they are doing it.

The culminating activity of the AP course is the AP Exam which takes place in early May each year. I strongly encourage all students to take the test. A passing grade can open doors to colleges and scholarships.

I am including with this letter a form for you to sign that indicates that the parent and student understand and accept the conditions and expectations for admittance and participation in the A.P. English class. We ask that you and your student sign this form and return it to me or the front office by June 13, 2014.

If you have questions please feel free to drop me an email at mcarlin@rsd.k12.pa.us. Like you, I will be away for part of the summer but I will respond as soon as possible. We hope you have a happy and restful summer!

Sincerely,  
Mark Carlin

### Signature Form:

The signatures below indicate that the parent/guardian and the students have discussed the requirements of the AP English Language and Composition Summer Assignment and the AP English Language and Composition Course and understand and accept the conditions and expectations for admittance and participation in the course.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent Name (printed)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Student Name (printed)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Student Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent email (printed)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Student email (printed)