

AP Language/Composition - U.S. History
Mr. Carlin and Mr. Lindeman

Dear Parents of AP English and U.S. History Students:

Your child has enrolled in the AP courses for next year. One of the requirements for these courses is completion of a summer assignment. We are writing to explain a bit about the assignment and the courses.

We 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 our hope that by giving this assignment now, and by having it due when students return in the fall, that 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. We will also meet with all AP students in the last week of the year to discuss the assignment and answer questions. The assignment will be due on the first day of school. Incomplete or missing assignments will result in a grade of zero for the assignment in the first 9-weeks.

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

The work will 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 and U.S. History courses are college-level courses that are offered at the secondary level. Both the amount and complexity of the work is meant to match that found in a college survey course of United States History and a college course on Rhetoric. We 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 in the classroom setting. In fact, much of the specific factual content they will need to assimilate on their own from readings and other sources. Our role is to help them create narratives which describe and explain the history as well as learn through reading and discussion the tools and techniques which help them analyze and understand the rhetoric of the passages they read. In class we 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. We urge you to encourage your child and to engage your child in conversation about what they are doing and how they are doing it.

Riverview Junior-Senior High School
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412-828-1800

Mr. Carlin and Mr. Lindeman
A.P. English and U.S. History

The culminating activity of the A.P. courses is the A.P. Exam that takes place in early May each year. Riverview requires that all students in the A.P. English and History classes must take the A.P. test in May. In 2014 the English class will test on Friday, May 9 and the history test will be given on Wednesday, May 14. This is a requirement without exceptions. Failure to take the A.P. test will result in the loss of the A.P. designation on the student's transcripts and the weighted grade.

We are 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 us by June 6, 2013.

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

Sincerely,

Mark Carlin

Bob Lindeman

Mr. Carlin and Mr. Lindeman
A.P. English and U.S. History

SIGNATURE FORM

The signatures below indicate that the parent/guardian and the student have discussed the requirements of the A.P. summer assignment and the A.P. courses and understand and accept the conditions and expectations for admittance and participation in the A.P. classes.

| | |
|---------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| _____ Parent Name (printed) | _____ Student Name (printed) |
| _____ Parent Signature | _____ Student Signature |
| _____ Parent email (printed) | _____ Student email (printed) |