

Avon Old Farms School

➤ Required Summer Reading and Assignments ➤

All students attending Avon Old Farms School for the 2012-2013 school year are required to complete specific summer reading before school in September. In September, students will be tested in their English classes on the required summer reading, *Last Night at the Lobster* by our visiting author, Stewart O’Nan, and *Zeitoun* by Dave Eggers.

There is also Summer Reading and Assignments for students scheduled by the Academic Dean to take A.P. Environmental Science and/or A.P. U.S. History, an Honors-level English class, an Advanced Placement-level English class, honors-level French 5, honors-level Spanish 5, A.P./Advanced Latin, A.P. World History, A.P. U.S. Government, and/or A.P. Chemistry, must complete essays/assignments as described below. Essays/assignments should be submitted to class instructors no later than the first day of class. Also, students assigned by the Academic Dean to take A.P. Studio must complete the assignments described below and submit them on the first day of classes.

Books will be available for sale at Baxter Library while students are on campus. Beginning in July, summer reading books will be available through our online bookstore. Books may also be checked out at your local public library or ordered through www.amazon.com. This list is also posted on the AOF web site on the Baxter Library page.

Of course, students are encouraged to read more than the “required” summer reading. To help students choose further reading, a Suggested Reading document is posted on the school website.

English 1 Honors

Please read the following work and write the assigned essay:

- *Great Expectations* by Charles Dickens

Essay: In some works of literature, childhood and adolescence are portrayed as times graced by innocence and a sense of wonder; in other works, they are depicted as times of tribulation and terror. Explain how the representation of childhood and adolescence in *Great Expectations* shapes the meaning of the story. Attention should be paid to proper spelling, grammar, punctuation, and form. This is a formal essay that will be my first impression of you as honors students. Make sure this represents you well. Submit your essay to your class instructor no later than the first day of class.

English 2 Honors

Please read the following work and write the assigned essay:

- *Gates of Fire: An Epic Novel of the Battle of Thermopylae* by Steven Pressfield

Essay: The concept of nobility forms one of the major themes of *Gates of Fire*. Write an essay of 400-500 words in which you define and then explain the term "nobility" as it applies to the Spartans at Thermopylae. Please do not refer to a dictionary; instead, use specific quotations and scenes from the novel to support your position. Submit your essay to your class instructor no later than the first day of class.

English 3 Honors

Please read the following work and write the assigned essay:

- *Revolutionary Road* by Richard Yates

Essay: "From the moment of its publication in 1961, *Revolutionary Road* was hailed as a masterpiece of realistic fiction and as the most evocative portrayal of the opulent desolation of the American suburbs. It's the story of Frank and April Wheeler, a bright, beautiful, and talented couple who have lived on the assumption that greatness is only just around the corner. With heartbreaking compassion and remorseless clarity, Richard Yates shows how Frank and April mortgage their spiritual birthright, betraying not only each other, but their best selves." (From the publisher.)

Choose one specific episode from the novel, and in a short essay (around 750 words) discuss how that episode reveals either 1) "the opulent desolation of the American suburbs" or 2) "the mortgag[ing of] their spiritual birthright." This essay should be written in Google Docs and shared with me (carpenterb@avonoldfarms.com) by 7:45 A.M. on the first day of classes.

English 4 Honors

Please read the following work and write the assigned essay:

- *Me Talk Pretty One Day* by David Sedaris

Essay: Identify a unifying theme in Sedaris's essays and write your own 500-750 word personal essay on a similar theme. Your essay should be creative and correct (on the matter of correctness, consult <http://www.hamilton.edu/writing/seven-sins-of-writing/seven-deadly-sins-of-writing>) Submit your essay to your class instructor no later than the first day of classes.

Advanced Placement Literature and Composition

Please read the following work and write the assigned essay:

- *Catch-22* by Joseph Heller

Essay: In *The Writing of Fiction* (1925), novelist Edith Wharton states the following:

At every stage in the progress of his tale the novelist must rely on what may be called the *illuminating incident* to reveal and emphasize the inner meaning of each situation. Illuminating incidents are the magic casements of fiction, its vistas on infinity.

Write a well-organized essay in which you describe an "illuminating" episode or moment in *Catch-22* and explain how it functions as a "casement," a window that opens onto the meaning of the work as a whole. Avoid mere plot summary. Please limit your response to fewer than 750 words. (Be sure to format your paper according to MLA guidelines and proofread for correctness. Consult <http://www.hamilton.edu/writing/seven-sins-of-writing/seven-deadly-sins-of-writing>) Submit your essay to your class instructor no later than the first day of class.

Advanced Placement Studio (Drawing, 2-D Design, 3-D Design Portfolios)

A.P. Studio Art is a college level studio class. This course takes a commitment beyond the classroom in order for you to grow technically, creatively, and aesthetically. By signing up, you have indicated that you are ready for the challenge. Over the summer you must complete **three works** for the first class meeting in September. Summer assignments are the first grades of the fall term. Failure to complete them will result in zeros.

Supplies:

11" x 14" good quality sketchbook

Drawing pencils (B, 4B, 6B, & 8B)

Charcoal pencil

Sharpie marker (fine point)

Colored medium (pencils, markers, etc.)

Larger pieces of drawing paper

Each day draw what you see in your sketchbook. *Draw only from observation.*

Try contour line, gesture line, value drawings with strong darks & lights.

Try figure drawing, still life, landscape, etc.

1. Bicycle Drawing - Pencil on 16" x 20" white paper

* Note: a drawing of a bicycle has been a part of the RSID entrance exam since 1950!

Check out this site: Art/projo.com/The Providence Journal

2. Self portrait

Avoid the straightforward, smack dab in the middle of the paper solution, unless you can do something unusual with it. Consider your expression & your head angle. A wide range of values and quality in the hair is important in this drawing.

3. Eggs

Set up three to five eggs on a bath towel. Concentrate on the round forms of the eggs in contrast to the texture of the towel. Take time to place the eggs & develop a strong composition.

4. Doorway or window

Try to show depth in your work. The viewer should be able to "walk" into the drawing and feel the physical space.

5. Shoes

Draw a pair of unique shoes in an interesting environment.

Advanced Placement Environmental Science

Students enrolled in the Advanced Placement Environmental Science course will be required to read *Encounters with the Archdruid* by John McPhee and to read two chapters of the course textbook, *Environmental Science: Principles, Connections, and Solutions* by G. Tyler Miller (Fourteenth Edition). Students will then be tested on these readings during the opening days of the school year. In order to prepare for testing on the material from the textbook, students will be required to complete and submit review sets that correspond to the chapters and supplements assigned. These review sets will be due for submission on the first day of classes and will count toward the first quarter averages of each student. A review guide for *Encounters with the Archdruid* will also be provided although completion of that review guide will be optional and is not required for submission.

Students should read the following two chapters and three supplements in the course textbook, *Environmental Science: Principles, Connections, and Solutions* by G. Tyler Miller (Fourteenth Edition).

- Chapter 1 – Environmental Problems, Their Causes, and Sustainability
- Chapter 2 – Science, Matter, and Energy
- Supplement 1 – Measurement Units, Precision, and Accuracy
- Supplement 2 - Graphing
- Supplement 7 – Some Basic Chemistry

Advanced Placement Chemistry

Recommended Textbook:

- *Chemistry* (Eleventh edition), Raymond Chang and Kenneth Goldsby, McGraw-Hill Science, (ISBN 978-0-07-340268-0)

You will have three assignments over the course of the summer that will be taken from the above textbook. They will act as good review from previous chemistry courses. It will be your job to send your assignments on their respective due dates to my email. You may either type or scan your assignments and send them as an attachment to my email: wuthmann@avonoldfarms.com (my school email). If you have

any questions about sending the assignment or the actual assignment/problems feel free to contact me. I will send the next two assignments over the course of the summer once you have turned in the previous assignment.

Assignment 1:

Read the first chapter, pages 1-28. Take reading notes for your own records since you will need them to study from during the year. The actual problems you will send to me are on pages 29-35

Numbers: 1.4, 1.9, 1.12, 1.16, 1.25, 1.36, 1.37, 1.44, 1.48, 1.50, 1.51, 1.57, 1.59, 1.69, 1.77, 1.84, 1.86, 1.88, 1.94, 1.103.

Make sure to show all work and calculations. The assignment is due by July 1st to my email at which point I will reply with the second assignment.

French 5 Honors

- Please read *Le Petit Nicolas* (Sempe-Gosciny).

Assignment: Write a 12-15 sentence paragraph summarizing chapter 1. All written work is due Tuesday, September 13. Late assignments are subject to a 20-point penalty per day. Essays submitted later than Monday, September 19 will receive no credit.

Advanced Placement/Advanced Latin

Please read from the following work and complete the assignments as directed below:

“Vergil's Aeneid,” Barbara Weiden-Boyd, ed., paperback, ISBN 978-0-86516-764-3 from Bolchazy-Carducci Publishers;

“The Aeneid,” Robert Fagles, trans., paperback, ISBN 978-0-14310-629-6 from Penguin Classics

“Caesar: Selections from his Commentarii De Bello Gallico,” Hans-Friedrich Mueller, ed., paperback, ISBN 978-0-86516-752-0

Assignments (all in English):

By July 15: “Caesar: Selections from his Commentarii De Bello Gallico”; introduction pp. xv-xxxviii and Books 1, 6 & 7 in English.

By August 30: “The Aeneid,” Robert Fagles, trans., Books 1, 2 & 4 in English.

I will be setting up an online assessment (through SurveyMonkey or other such site) and this will be LOCKED OUT after the due date. The students will be on their honor to complete the assignments without cheating. A combined score on the two assessments will be factored in to the students' first quarter grades (Score of 90%+ will get a 10% boost to first quarter grade, 80% - 89% will get an 8% boost, 70% - 79% will get a 7% boost and students earning below a 70% combined score will get no boost).

Spanish 5 Honors

Assignment: Over the course of the summer, read five articles taken from Spanish websites that are related to national, cultural or political events in Spain, The United States (that concern the Latino Community) Central America, Mexico and South America. Potential websites include: BBC en español;

CNN en español; El país; El mundo or any other legitimate source. If you are not sure please contact me through my email address leisk@avonoldfarms.com

Summarize in Spanish what you have read about at least two of the types of events mentioned above, and email your summaries in on posted dates that I will send to you. You must type your summaries, and they must double-spaced and in 14 font. Nothing will be accepted after the due date.

Advanced Placement United States Government

Students should read the following book and write a 1250 – 1500 word essay on the topic below:

- *The Revolution Will Not Be Televised: Democracy, the Internet, and the Overthrow of Everything* by Joe Trippi
 - Do you agree with Joe Trippi's thesis that use of the internet by political candidates is limiting the effect of television on American politics? Is this a good or a bad development for American politics? How are candidates for office where you live making use of the internet in their campaigns?
 - Please be sure to refer to *The Revolution Will Not Be Televised* in your essay. Essays must be typed, double-spaced, and contain citations where appropriate.

Advanced Placement United States History

Please read the following book:

- *The Founding Brothers; The Revolutionary Generation* by Joseph J. Ellis

Advanced Placement World History

During the summer, read one of the following works and answer the questions below. You may answer the questions in a single essay or in three separate sections; either way, your response should be limited to 250-500 words. Students are welcome to suggest other works of historical scholarship for this assignment but may not make a substitution without the instructor's approval.

Bernstein, William, *A Splendid Exchange*

Diamond, Jared, *Guns, Germs, and Steel*

Diamond, Jared, *Collapse: How Societies Choose to Fail or Succeed*

Standage, Tom, *An Edible History of Humanity*

Standage, Tom, *A History of the World in Six Glasses*

Weatherford, Jack, *Genghis Khan and the Making of the Modern World*

Weatherford, Jack, *Indian Givers*

What is the thesis of this work? What is the question it poses, and how does it answer that question?

What is unusual about the author's method or approach?

To what extent are you convinced? With what aspects of the author's work or argument do you disagree?

Why are you skeptical?

