

9th Grade Honors English – Haralson County High School

Course Description

The “Honors” designation identifies a class that has above-average expectations for above-average students. Students who enroll in an honors course must be prepared to assume greater personal responsibility than their peers. As a reward for taking on extra responsibility and more challenging assignments, students may look forward to more creativity and in-depth learning in the classroom.

Because of the high standards to which Honors students are held, each student must demonstrate motivation and willingness to go above and beyond the normal requirements for a good grade.

The following assignments must be completed during the summer before a student enters Honors English.

- **Students who take Honors English during the fall semester should bring the completed assignment to the first day of class**
- **Students who take Honors English the following spring must turn in the completed assignments during the first two weeks of fall semester.**

There may be grading penalties if the assignment is turned in late. *These assignments will significantly affect a student's final grade.*

Summer Assignments

Read *Ender's Game* by Orson Scott Card. The book should be easy to find at bookstores or freely available at public libraries. The high school can supply a limited number of copies if necessary. After reading the novel, complete the following response activities.

1. Write an interview or conversation between you and the main character of your book. Be sure you write detailed responses for the character. The interview should be fairly substantial – 8 questions with well-written and convincing answers should earn 70 points out of 100.
2. Create something visual that brings a facet of your book to life. This is very open to creativity – some ideas might include a movie poster, a map, or a diorama, or you could go high-tech by designing a PowerPoint, website, or video. Feel free to create some other visual aid even if it is not listed here.
3. Assemble a collection of quotable quotes from the book. Explain in detail why you chose each quote. Again, 8 interesting quotes with detailed explanations would earn 70 points out of 100.
4. How do you expect your life in high school to be similar to the main character's life in the novel? Write a few paragraphs explaining your thoughts on this topic. Each paragraph should have at least 4 sentences, and 3 well-written paragraphs should earn 70 points out of 100.
5. After completing all of the above assignments, have a parent or guardian review your work and write a brief letter to the teacher about the quality of your work.

Attention Parents

Ender's Game is a science-fiction novel used in many English classes and gifted programs nationwide. The reading material is more mature than many of the texts students have read in middle school; however, after thorough discussion of the novel, English teachers at Haralson County High School have agreed that its content is appropriate for reasonably mature ninth-grade honors students.

Many of the texts your student will be assigned to read in ninth grade do contain scenes of violence and limited profanity. *Ender's Game* is one of these texts. If you have concerns about its specific content, or if you would like to discuss the curriculum as a whole, please feel free to contact the Honors English teacher or the English department head by calling HCHS at 770-574-7647 or 770-574-5200.