



City Honors School

AT FOSDICK-MASTEN PARK

William A. Kresse, Ph.D. PRINCIPAL

Alicia E. Barinas ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL

Tandy J. Hamilton ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL

Angela R. Hannah ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL

City Honors School Summer Study for Students Entering Grade 9

The following assignments are *recommended* to help students as they enter our high school literature program, as it is our expectation that students begin 9th grade prepared for analytical discussions and writings. Here are three independent studies to engage students prior to the beginning of the school year. They are helpful practice to develop the skills needed to work with literature and film.

Students: in our program, it is expected that you annotate what you read, for both literary elements and authorial choices, even if annotations are not “checked” or “graded.” Annotations are essential in order to discuss and write about literature. Be thoughtful about your notes, as they are preparation to share your highlighted findings/insights through a variety of responses. Highlight or underline passages you find especially significant and then record notes in the margins. If you have questions about how to annotate or want additional resources, please visit Ms. Ziolkowski’s or Mr. Belge’s webpage.

Webpage: <http://www.buffaloschools.org/webpages/nziolkowski/>
<https://cityhonors.org/page/faculty-and-staff-info/view/dbelge/>

Email: nziolkowski@buffaloschools.org
dbelge@buffaloschools.org

1. Recommended Poetry Study:

Choose a poet from the list below to study over the summer. Compile 8-10 print copies of poems by the writer. Read and annotate each. Then, complete a 1-2 page reaction paper answering the following questions:

- What did you enjoy most about the poet’s work?
- What relevant topics or themes emerged from the poetry? What ideas/topics does the poet seem to take interest in? What threads exist between the poems?
- Describe the poet’s style; what poetic techniques are utilized most frequently by the poet?

Mary Oliver
 Sylvia Plath
 Robert Frost
 Billy Collins
 Gwendolyn Brooks
 Adrienne Rich
 William Blake

Richard Blanco
 Maya Angelou
 Robert Hayden
 William Carlos Williams
 Rita Dove
 Edna St. Vincent Millay
 Emily Dickinson

Margaret Atwood
 Li Young Lee
 Lucille Clifton
 Henry David Thoreau
 Pablo Neruda
 Michael Ondaatje
 Nikki Giovanni

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186 EAST NORTH STREET BUFFALO, NEW YORK 14204

TEL 716.816.4230

FAX 716.888.7145





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* There are plenty of great poets to study. If you wish to run another name by me, feel free to email Ms. Ziolkowski at nziolkowski@buffaloschools.org

2. *Recommended Classical Mythology and Bible Stories Study:*

It is highly beneficial for students in the CHS English Department to have strong knowledge of texts that are foundational to Western literature. We recommend that students are knowledgeable of allusions to Greco-Roman mythology as well as the Bible as literature. *Mythology* by Edith Hamilton is a useful text, as well as familiarizing yourself with stories from both the New and Old Testament. Take notes on everything you read. Please see Ms. Ziolkowski's webpage for a list of suggested stories and characters to know.

We will begin the year with a reading of *How to Read Literature Like a Professor* by Thomas Foster. In class, you will receive specific chapters to study. If you would like to purchase your own copy of the text, or read it more thoroughly, please purchase over summer and have for the first day of school.

It is also recommended that students purchase a writing handbook such as *The Element of Style* by Strunk and White to assist with academic writing. An electronic version of this text is available on Ms. Ziolkowski's web page.

3. *Recommended Novel/Drama Reading:*

Our best advice is to read as many novels and plays as you can. Read often; read well. Become curious about literature and texts. Explore genres you have not read, by authors with which you are unfamiliar, about cultures you have yet to understand. Be a voracious scholar of books, articles, podcasts, lectures, art. Pay attention to detail. Take time to learn about an author's background and the time/place from which she or he was writing. Allow yourself to enjoy the art of literature rather than worrying about a grade. Below are some student favorites from the past.

The Alchemist
Speak
The Help
The Book Thief
Purple Hibiscus
The Namesake
The Storyteller
Brown Girl Dreaming
A Separate Peace
Tuesdays with Morrie

Paulo Coelho
Laurie Halse Anderson
Kathryn Stockett
Markus Zusak
Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie
Jhumpa Lahiri
Jodi Picoult
Jacqueline Woodson
John Knowles
Mitch Albom

*Please consider reading any of **Toni Morrison's** work. She is a visiting author in this year's *Just Buffalo* Babel series, and will speak at Kleinhans Music Hall on November 9, 2017.

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