We hope you enjoy your summer vacation. As part of our curriculum, we require all students to participate in our summer reading program. We believe reading and literature are integral parts of life and the learning experience. We hope you enjoy the book we have selected for your summer reading assignment, and we look forward to seeing you in the fall.

12th Grade: *The Stranger written by Albert Camus*

**Part 1:** Please read the above text and be prepared for discussions, presentations, and writing tasks beginning your first week back to school in September (details to be discussed during the first week of school). It is strongly suggested that you annotate while you read (on paper, in the book itself, or on Post-Its). **PLEASE MAKE SURE YOU HAVE COPIES OF THE BOOKS AVAILABLE TO YOU DURING THE FIRST TWO WEEKS OF SCHOOL.**

The Bergen County High School administration and English teaching staff believe that reading a variety of texts of recognized literary merit is the foundation for receiving and profiting from a quality education. Therefore, in addition to the above required assignments, it is **highly recommended** that all students read at least (3) additional selections from the ALA list for enrichment during the summer. This list may be found on the American Library Association’s website dedicated to college-bound readers: www.ala.org/yalsa/booklists/obcb.

**Part 2:** Please complete a typed draft of your college essay. Please write the number count and limit on the bottom of the essay, your question and where the question comes from. Be ready to submit your draft and sign up for at least one conference with a senior English teacher. You can go online and look at EssayHell.com or CollegeBoard.com for guidance. If you had guidance from your junior English use those notes, sites or examples as references. Also be sure that any other site used has been approved by the College Board.

**2019-2020 Common Application Essay Prompts**

1. Some students have a background, identity, interest, or talent that is so meaningful they believe their application would be incomplete without it. If this sounds like you, then please share your story.

2. The lessons we take from obstacles we encounter can be fundamental to later success. Recount a time when you faced a challenge, setback, or failure. How did it affect you, and what did you learn from the experience?

3. Reflect on a time when you questioned or challenged a belief or idea. What prompted your thinking? What was the outcome?

4. Describe a problem you've solved or a problem you'd like to solve. It can be an intellectual challenge, a research query, an ethical dilemma - anything that is of personal importance, no
matter the scale. Explain its significance to you and what steps you took or could be taken to identify a solution.

5. Discuss an accomplishment, event, or realization that sparked a period of personal growth and a new understanding of yourself or others.

6. Describe a topic, idea, or concept you find so engaging that it makes you lose all track of time. Why does it captivate you? What or who do you turn to when you want to learn more?

7. Share an essay on any topic of your choice. It can be one you've already written, one that responds to a different prompt, or one of your own design.

During the 2018-2019 application year, the most popular topic of choice was: “Share an essay on any topic of your choice. It can be one you've already written, one that responds to a different prompt, or one of your own design.” (24.1%). The next most popular topics were: “Discuss an accomplishment, event, or realization that sparked a period of personal growth and a new understanding of yourself or others.” (23.7%), followed by “The lessons we take from obstacles we encounter can be fundamental to later success. Recount a time when you faced a challenge, setback, or failure. How did it affect you, and what did you learn from the experience?” (21.1%).

"The prompts as they exist today offer a broad range of approaches, accommodating students with a diverse set of experiences and ideas about the world to respond in a thoughtful and illuminating manner," said Ian Watson, Associate Director of College Counseling at The Rivers School (Weston, MA).