Media Disclosure

Dear Parents and Guardians:

For the Summer Reading Task for the 2019-2020 school year, students will read *The Handmaid's Tale* by Margaret Atwood and *The Age of Innocence* by Edith Wharton—as part of a unit on feminist literary thought. As recommendations from the College Board, these texts have been selected for study because of their literary merits. *The Handmaid's Tale*, published in 1986, includes scenes of sexual assault, profane language, and Biblical imagery (in depicting the plight of the main character in the face of a repressive government system). Information is available regarding the College Board's recommendation of *The Handmaid's Tale* (which Ms. Hernandez can provide). Due to time restraints, summer text studies will take no more than three or four days at the beginning of September, as students will complete written responses and oral presentations for assessment. Please feel free to call or email Ms. Hernandez (201-343-6000, ext. 7669 through June 25th, 2019; marriz@bergen.org at any time) with questions or concerns you may have. **Please contact Ms. Hernandez this summer** if your student may not read *The Handmaid's Tale*; Ms. Hernandez will then assign alternative lessons. Ms. Cabanilla Alves (roscab@bergen.org) serves as the Supervisor of the English Department.

Thank you

AP English Literature and Composition

“The AP English Literature and Composition course focuses on reading, analyzing, and writing about imaginative literature (fiction, poetry, drama) from various periods. Students engage in close reading and critical analysis of imaginative literature to deepen their understanding of the ways writers use language to provide both meaning and pleasure. As they read, students consider a work's structure, style, and themes, as well as its use of figurative language, imagery, and symbolism. Writing assignments include expository, analytical, and argumentative essays that require students to analyze and interpret literary works.” *(Course Description 2019)*

Summer Reading Assignment:

1. *The Handmaid's Tale* by Margaret Atwood
2. *The Age of Innocence* by Edith Wharton

Please read both of the above texts 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.

For suggested study:

A. **It is suggested** that you read some poetry; below are representative AP Lit. poets:

W. H. Auden; Elizabeth Bishop; William Blake; Anne Bradstreet; Edward Kamau Brathwaite; Gwendolyn Brooks; Robert Browning; George Gordon, Lord Byron; Lorna Dee Cervantes; Geoffrey Chaucer; Lucille Clifton; Samuel Taylor Coleridge; Billy Collins; H. D. (Hilda Doolittle); Emily Dickinson; John Donne; Rita Dove; Paul Laurence Dunbar; T. S. Eliot; Robert Frost; Joy Harjo; Seamus Heaney; George Herbert; Garrett Hongo; Gerard Manley Hopkins; Langston Hughes; Ben Jonson; John Keats; Philip Larkin; Robert Lowell; Andrew Marvell; John Milton; Marianne Moore; Sylvia Plath; Edgar Allan Poe; Alexander Pope; Adrienne Rich; Anne Sexton; William Shakespeare; Percy Bysshe Shelley; Leslie Marmon Silko; Cathy Song; Wallace Stevens; Alfred, Lord Tennyson; Derek Walcott; Walt Whitman; Richard Wilbur; William Carlos Williams; William Wordsworth; William Butler Yeats.

B. **It is suggested** that you create a list or create notecards including definitions, examples, and/or characteristics of the items below with which you do not already have experience.

Literary Techniques or Strategies (see full list continued on the following page):

- Allusion
- Antecedent
- Catharsis
- Characterization—archetype, dynamic, static, foil
• Diction—connotative word choice; formal or colloquial; abstract or concrete; literal or figurative; ornate or plain; *le mot juste*; malapropism

• Dramatic structure—exposition, exciting force, rising action, climax, falling action, denouement, resolution

• Figurative language, Figures of speech (or tropes; using words in senses beyond the literal meanings, extending the meanings)—extended metaphor, hyperbole, imagery, irony, litotes, metaphor, metonymy, onomatopoeia, overstatement, oxymoron, pathetic fallacy, personification, simile, symbolism, synecdoche, synesthesia, understatement, zeugma

• Mood

• Motif

• Narration and types of narratives—1st person, 2nd person, 3rd person, omniscient, persona, Stream of Consciousness, Free Indirect Discourse (a character's thoughts are filtered through a 3rd person narrator); allegory, *epic poem*, framework narrative, parable

• Paradox

• Poetry and drama—aside, ballad, chorus, dramatic monologue, elegy, quatrains, lyric, ode, narrative poem, pastoral; sestina, sonnet—octave, sestet, soliloquy, *volta*; blank verse, conceit, couplet, enjambment, feminine rhyme, free verse, foot, heroic couplet, implied interlocutor, internal rhyme, masculine rhyme, meter (iambic, trochaic, dactylic, anapestic), quatrains, scansion, schemes (alliteration, apostrophe, assonance, consonance), slant rhyme, *terza rima*

• Prose vs. Verse

• Rhetoric (strategies, including appeals)

• Satire and comedy—bathos, caricature, comic relief, irony (dramatic, situational, verbal), parody, pun, mockery, mock-heroic, sarcasm, stereotype, overstatement, understatement

• Schemes (rhetorical figures of speech departing from the normal order or sound of words; they do not extend the meaning, as tropes do)—alliteration, apostrophe, antithesis, anaphora, assonance, asyndeton, consonance, chiasmus, polysyndeton, rhetorical question

• Sentence style, syntax—inversion, parallelism, periodic sentence, loose sentence, compound, complex, clauses, phrases, imperative, use of punctuation, long vs. short, partial sentences

• Syllogism

• Theme

• Tone

• Voice—assessed in terms of tone, style, personality, how the author addresses the reader (not in perception of events, as in point of view)

**Literary Movements or Eras**: Old English, Middle English, Modern English, Renaissance, Metaphysical, Romantic, Realist, Transcendentalist, Victorian, Gilded Age, Modernist, Existentialist, Post-modernist, Absurdist, Contemporary