

Dear Juniors, Seniors and Parents,

We have an exciting year planned for you come this fall. In English class, we will be studying European literature beginning with the Renaissance and going through the early 1900s. The curriculum committee has chosen an ambitious reading list that includes many of the greatest plays, poems and novels written during the time period. I am confident that this introduction to the classics will deepen your appreciation of literature and the beauty of our language, and will help you to become better writers.

### *A Tale of Two Cities*

To get a jump on the year, the curriculum committee has also assigned the novel, *A Tale of Two Cities* by Charles Dickens for summer reading. This book should be available at any major book store or library. It is also available on tape or CD. If you think it may increase your understanding and enjoyment of the novel, we encourage you to read along while listening to the recording. We will be discussing this novel the first couple weeks of the school year. I have not assigned any written work to go with this novel over the summer; just read and enjoy!

### *Edmund Campion*

For your History class next year, the committee has assigned *Edmund Campion* by Evelyn Waugh. In this biography, Waugh tells of the mission and martyrdom of the famous Jesuit priest in Queen Elizabeth's Protestant England. This book is published by Ignatius Press and may need to be ordered online. The ISBN is 9781586170431.

### **Books to Purchase**

Next year you will be reading several photocopied selections from larger works. The school has compiled an Medieval Lit Reader that students will purchase for \$10 the first week of school. All other works of literature must be purchased by each individual student by the beginning of the school year. Many of these books are available at major book stores, but I suggest ordering them all online because it is usually cheaper. They can all be found at <http://www.amazon.com>. The prices I have listed here are for brand-new books, but most of them can be found used for cheaper on the Amazon website. Used books can take longer to ship to your house, so don't wait until a week before school starts to order! The Dover Thrift editions are available at <http://store.doverpublications.com> for cheaper than they are on amazon.

Students are required to use the particular edition listed below and students may not use abridged editions of any of these books.

*Macbeth* by Shakespeare

**Folger Shakespeare Library** Edition  
ISBN 9780743477109 \$5.99

*Paradise Lost* by John Milton

**Signet Classic Edition** \$8.00  
ISBN 0451531833

*The Pilgrim's Progress* by John Bunyan

**Signet Classic Edition** \$7.95  
ISBN 0451531299

*Pride and Prejudice* by Jane Austin

**Enriched Classics Edition** \$4.95  
published by Pocket ISBN 0743487591

*Great Expectations* by Charles Dickens

**Bantam Classic Edition** \$4.95  
ISBN 9780553213423

SMA also owns many copies of *Great Expectations* which will be sold on a first-come, first-serve basis for \$5.00 each at the school office. The school copies are not published by Bantam, but for this one book, I will allow you to get this different edition. The office summer hours are 9 AM to 1 PM Monday through Thursday for the months of June and August. The office is closed for July and Fridays.

*Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde* by R. L. Stevenson

**Dover Thrift Edition** \$1.50 on Dover  
website  
ISBN 0486266885

*The Importance of Being Earnest* by Oscar Wilde

**Dover Thrift Edition** \$1.50 on Dover  
website  
ISBN 0486264785

In addition to the works of fiction listed above, each St. Monica Academy high school student must own a copy of the *MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers*. This book must be purchased at the beginning of a student's high school career. It will be used all four years of high school, and most likely in college as well. If you do not already have a copy of the MLA Handbook, you must purchase one for the upcoming year.

*MLA Handbook for Writers  
Of Research Papers*, 6<sup>th</sup> Edition  
by Joseph Gibaldi

Modern Language Association of  
America  
ISBN 9780873529860 \$14.00

I look forward to seeing familiar faces again and to meeting all our new students in the fall. Enjoy your summer and be sure to read!

Mrs. Christine Halpin  
English Dept.