## FRESHMAN SUMMER LETTER

Dear Freshmen and Parents,

This year you will be studying <u>Ancient Greek and Roman Literature</u>. The Curriculum Committee has chosen an ambitious reading list that includes many of the greatest epics, poems, and plays our Western literary tradition has to offer. I am confident that this introduction to the classics will deepen your appreciation of literature and will help you to become better writers.

## **Summer Reading**

To get a jump on the year, the Curriculum Committee has assigned the tragedy *Oedipus* the King by Sophocles, and sections from Edith Hamilton's book *Mythology*. You will also be using these works during the school year, so please make sure you have the correct editions listed below. Students are to read all of *Oedipus the King* and the following sections from *Mythology*:

- From Part One: (1) The Gods (2) The Two Great Gods of Earth (3) How the World and Mankind Were Created
- From Part Two (5) Cupid and Psyche (7) The Quest of the Golden Fleece
- All of Part Three: The Great Heroes Before the Trojan War
- All of Part Four: The Heroes of the Trojan War

Students should be prepared to discuss these works during the first couple weeks of the school year. There is no written assignment over the summer, so just read and enjoy!

## **Books for the Year**

Next year you will be reading several photocopied selections from larger works. The school has compiled an Ancient Lit Reader that students will receive first week of school. <u>All other works of literature must be purchased by each individual student by the beginning of the school year.</u> 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 <a href="http://www.amazon.com">http://www.amazon.com</a>. <u>Used copies can be found cheaper on the Amazon website</u>. Used books can take longer to ship to your house, so don't wait until a week before school starts to order!

<u>Students are required to use the particular edition listed below</u>. This is especially important because you are reading translations of works originally written in Greek or Latin, and everyone needs to be using the same translation.

Students may not use abridged editions of any of these books.

Mythology by Hamilton (8.3 X 5.3 inches) ISBN 0316341517 or (6.6 X 4.2 inches) ISBN 0446607258

There are two sizes of this book, each with a slightly different cover. The smaller one has the subtitle *Timeless Tales of Gods and Heroes*. The text of these two sizes is exactly the same and either is fine for the class.

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Sophocles I: Oedipus the King, Oedipus at Colonus and Antigone By Sophocles and translated by Greene The University of Chicago Press ISBN 0226307921

The Iliad by Homer Translated by Fitzgerald

Farrar, Straus and Giroux Pub ISBN 0374529051

The Odyssey by Homer Translated by Lattimore

Harper Perennial Modern Classics ISBN 9780061244186

*The Oresteia* Trilogy by Aeschylus Translated by Fagels

Penguin Classics Edition ISBN 0140443339

Julius Caesar by Shakespeare

Folger Shakespeare Library Edition ISBN 9781439196717

(An older edition is fine; just make sure you buy the Folger Library Edition.)

The Aeneid by Vergil
Translated by Sarah Ruden

Yale University Press ISBN 0300151411

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!

Mr. Peter Halpin High School Dean