



June 19, 2009

Dear High School Students and Parents,

We have an exciting year planned for you this fall. This year we will be studying Ancient Greek and Roman Literature. The curriculum committee and I have 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.

English Summer Reading

To get a jump on the year, the curriculum committee has assigned the tragedy *Oedipus* by Sophocles, and sections from Edith Hamilton's book *Mythology* to be read over the summer. We 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 few weeks of the school year. I have not assigned any written work to go with them over the summer; just read and enjoy!

Theology Summer Reading

For your Theology class next year, the curriculum committee has assigned *Out of the Silent Planet* by C.S. Lewis. Students may purchase any complete edition of this book and should be prepared to discuss this work during the first few weeks of the school year.

Books to Purchase for Use During the Year

Next year we will be reading many photocopied selections from larger works which the school will compile and distribute. 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 we suggest ordering them all online. 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 less 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!

Students are required to use the particular edition listed below. This is especially important because we are reading translations of works originally written in Greek or Latin, and we all need to be using the same translation.

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

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SMA owns used copies of some of these books. They will be sold on a first-come first-serve basis for \$7.00 each. The office summer hours are 9 AM to 1 PM Monday through Thursday for the months of June and August. The office is closed on Fridays and for all of July.

Mythology by Hamilton (8.3 X 5.3 inches) ISBN 0316341517 \$11.00

(6.6 X 4.2 inches) ISBN 0446607258 \$8.00

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 ok for our class.

*Sophocles I: Oedipus the King,
Oedipus at Colonus and Antigone*
By Sophocles

The University of Chicago Press
ISBN 0226307921 \$9.50

The Iliad by Homer
Translated by Fitzgerald

Farrar, Straus and Giroux Pub
ISBN 0374529051 \$11.50

The Odyssey by Homer
Translated by Lattimore

Harper Perennial Modern Classics
ISBN 0060931957 \$10.50

The Oresteia Trilogy by Aeschylus

Penguin Classics Edition
ISBN 0140443339 \$8.00

Antony and Cleopatra by Shakespeare

Folger Shakespeare Library Edition
ISBN 0743482859 \$6.00

Meditations by Marcus Aurelius

Dover Thrift Edition
ISBD 048629823X \$3.00

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 and it will be used all four years of high school, and most likely in college as well.

*MLA Handbook for Writers
Of Research Papers*, 6th Edition
by Joseph Gibaldi

**Modern Language Association of
America**
ISBN 9780873529860 \$17.50

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

Mrs. Halpin
English Department Chair