Welcome to Robert E. Lee High School and to the Early College program. For this year’s summer reading assignment, you must complete the following and bring to class the first day of school (Monday, August 12th):

Read both *Lord of the Flies* by William Golding and *Animal Farm* by George Orwell.

I recommend you purchase your own texts because annotating the texts will help you to become a better reader. You may check out these books from the library but you will not be able to mark the texts. Also, keep in mind that used bookstores and Amazon.com often have used copies that are relatively inexpensive.

As you read, you will complete a “Dialectal Journal” for each book following the guidelines that will follow. This will help you prepare for discussions and analytical essays during the school year, but will also give you needed practice in close reading.

**NOTE:** During the first week of class, you will have tests over the readings to check your comprehension. Slow down and make sure you are reading carefully! Also, be ready to turn in your “Dialectical Journals” on the first full day of class.

Why do we ask you to keep a “Dialectical Journal”? Too often readers read passively. We sit down with a book, pass our eyes over the words, and say we have done the reading assignment. At first you may think completing an assignment while you are reading seems cumbersome, believing, “This is not the way I read.” In time, however, taking notes will be one way you are actively participating in making meaning of the different works you encounter. Hopefully, you will learn to enjoy the process as you learn to become a more active reader. I want you to have a “Dialogue” with the text and engage with the author as you seek to understand the works read.

While you read, record your questions, comments, and ideas in the response column, next to the part of the text that has piqued your interest. These responses will be used in class to clear up any problems that you may have had, and to indicate thoughts and reflections that you had as you were reading. In essence, the “Response” column becomes an intellectual history of your reading experience. Furthermore, this material becomes the basis for much of the writing you will do while analyzing what we have read. Don’t be embarrassed by your questions; asking questions is a part of the learning process. Be sure to try to answer your question, though, as you continue through the selection.

**Materials Needed for English:**

- Blue and black pens, pencils, erasers, highlighters
- Three-ring binder with loose-leaf paper and five dividers
- Flash drive
Instructions for Two-Column Notes/The Dialectical Journal:
You will need to complete the assignment for both novels. For the first one, start by dividing your paper into two columns. The column on the left is where you will put the passages you copy directly from the book. Make sure to include the page number of each passage. The column on the right will be your response. You are not just summarizing the plot. You are analyzing the passages from the text to explore meaning and to prepare to show your insight in class discussions. Do not tell me what happened; tell me why.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Textual Evidence</th>
<th>Response Column</th>
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<td>Copy, verbatim, passages from the text. Most passages should be at least 1-2 sentences long. Remember to include page numbers.</td>
<td>For each passage, you may pick one or several of the following ways to respond. Try to stretch yourself and try different categories. The grade will be based on the insight and depth of your reflections.</td>
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Look for the following items.
1. A passage that describes one of the main themes in the novel.
2. A passage that describes the setting.
3. A passage that includes a strong physical description of one of the characters.
4. A passage with strong imagery that helps to show the tone of the novel.
5. A passage that shows the motivation for a character’s action.
6-10. For the next five items, include favorite passages that you think would provoke discussion from the class. Items to look for include foreshadowing, irony, symbolism, good characterization, interesting descriptions, etc. Remember to make comments in the response column about why you think these passages are significant.

Example: Jack says, “We’ve got to have rules and obey them. After all, we’re not savages” (42).

To respond you can
- Make comments or observations about the style or the techniques the author uses.
- Ask deep questions that begin with “how” or “why.”
- Write a poem that retells/responds to the passage.
- Connect the passage to an outside source, saying, “this passage reminds me of….because….“ Limit the comments about personal connections. Most of your comments should be analyzing the actual passage.
- You may also create a drawing that interprets the passage visually, but make sure that your written analysis comprises the bulk of your response.

Example: This passage seems ironic because the boys are acting more and more like savages. While Jack at this point wants rules, he soon turns into a savage himself as the hunts become more and more graphic and violent---and savage like!

DO NOT JUST SUMMARIZE THE PLOT!
I have read each of these novels several times. I know what happened. Try to tell me why events occurred, why names were chosen, why the author chose to use “---.”