

June 2010

Dear Parent(s)/Guardian(s):

We are excited that your daughter/son is enrolled in Enriched Language Arts 8 for the 2010-2011 school year. We are confident that this course will be an exciting and challenging experience for all students involved.

As part of the enrichment for this course, we are requiring students to read one book this summer that will allow for earlier immersion in coursework once school begins. We have chosen *Fahrenheit 451*, published originally in 1953 and written by award-winning author Ray Bradbury. In this novel, Guy Montag is a firefighter who burns books in a futuristic American city. When Montag meets a young girl and a professor, he begins to question the beliefs and assumptions of his society. He must resolve both internal and external conflicts in order to survive.

Students should be prepared for a test on *Fahrenheit 451* on the first day of class in September. In addition, we will be discussing and writing about the novel during the first several weeks of the school year. If possible students should bring the book on the first day of school. **To prepare for the first-day test, students need to study plot, characters, setting, and elements of survival.** Naturally, students should not consult websites or outside materials to assist them in their reading. Extra time to complete the reading will only be granted to students who were enrolled in our district after August 15, 2010, and therefore did not have adequate access to the course information.

In addition to reading *Fahrenheit 451*, we expect students to read several additional books of their choice during the summer. For suggestions, check the following reading links, which offer lists of recommended young adult literature:

http://www.educationworld.com/summer_reading/

<http://www.hclib.org/teens/read.cfm>

<http://www.ala.org/ala/mgrps/divs/yalsa/booklistsawards/booklistsbook.cfm#booklists>.

Thank you for your commitment to your child's education. We look forward to working with you and your student in the fall.

Sincerely,

Heidi Degener and Margaret Smith
Language Arts 8th Grade