

TIMBER CREEK WESTERN STUDIES MS. EVANS

June 2009

Dear Students,

First, I want to congratulate you on the successful completion of another school year. You definitely deserve a well-earned break. As with every other year, however, you do have a summer reading assignment. Your summer reading novel is *The Wizard of Oz* by Frank Baum. Because this assignment is exclusive to Western Studies, you will have to purchase the book or borrow it from your local library.

Don't worry, this book is not merely a simple children's book that I am asking you to suffer through. *The Wizard of Oz* can be read as a complex allegory, which represents many different aspects of the human experience from the political unrest of the late 1890s to an individual's quest for spiritual fulfillment. While reading, you should be developing your own ideas as to what this novel *really* is talking about. We will be delving deeper into these issues the first week you get back to school.

Besides reading this novel, you will be required to create an account on turnitin.com. We will be using this program throughout the year. If you cannot get to a computer or cannot understand the included instruction, you will not be penalized, but you must schedule a date to stay after school with me and create this account.

I also thought some of you who like to be prepared would appreciate a list of supplies you will need for my class. I would suggest you get a 2-inch three ring binder, loose leaf paper, a folder that you can put in the binder, and page dividers for the sections in your binder. You will need to label sections in your binder for vocabulary, class notes, writing, and warm-ups.

Below you will find a check list of assignments related to this novel to complete as well as detailed instructions. Be sure to read everything thoroughly and if you have any questions about the summer reading assignments or the instructions, do not hesitate to email me at jevans@bhprsd.org. I sincerely look forward to working with you next year. Have a great summer

Sincerely,
Ms. Evans

Summer reading checklist

- Read *The Wizard of Oz* by Frank Baum
- Background information on the life of Frank Baum
- Make notes on the enclosed reading question guide
- Complete enclosed essay – typed
- Create a turnitin.com account
- Participate in both class discussions on turnitin.com
- Turn in *Wizard of Oz* essay to turnitin.com

Remember, if for some reason you cannot get turnitin.com to work for you, you still must read all enclosed information, the novel, and write the essay. You will turn the essay in to me, in person, on the first day of school. Also, do not forget to schedule a date to stay after with me to create the account and complete the discussion questions.