Dear 11th Grade Students,

Welcome back to Arlington High School! We have an exciting year ahead of us. We will be reading a variety of literature on different subjects from different time periods. We will be looking closely at how authors develop these themes in literature and how these themes relate to everyday life around the world and also on a more personal level.

In addition to reading an assigned class text, you will also be required to read a book independently of your choosing. Every day at the start of class, you will either be reading your independent reading book or writing about it in a journal. More information about this will be coming in the weeks that follow. In addition to writing in your journal, various essays will be assigned throughout the year covering various topics in different styles of writing. You will also be required to write a research paper that we will work on throughout the year.

This is also an important year because in June of this year you will sit to take the English Common Core Exam. The exam consists of answering multiple choice questions about reading passages, writing an argumentative essay, and writing a text analysis of a literary passage. You must pass the Common Core exam to graduate from high school. This is a challenging exam; as a result, we will spend much time this year preparing so that each and every one of you can be successful in passing.

As you can see we have a very busy year ahead of us. Therefore it is important that you:
- be present in class every day on time
- complete all assignments to the best of your ability and on time
- make maximum use of all resources available to you
- be prepared to actively evaluate your work and the work of others, making and accepting suggestions for improvement
- actively participate in class discussions
- work cooperatively in small and large groups, making sure that you contribute to the process and that you respect the contributions and opinions of others
- take notes on all material presented through a variety of media
- behave in a manner that is appropriate and shows that you have accepted the responsibility of being accountable for your actions

In addition to assistance you may receive during regularly scheduled class periods, I will be available for extra help by appointment after school. Whenever necessary, individual student or student-parent-guidance counselor conferences may be scheduled to insure that this is a successful school year. I am looking forward to the upcoming year and am excited to get to know you and work with you.

Most sincerely,

Mrs. Howard