

## Summer Reading

## for students entering Women in Literature

Read *The Handmaid's Tale* by Margaret Atwood and complete **one** of the written assignments included below. This assignment will provide teachers with a writing sample and count as an essay grade for the first marking period.

- a. Using different characters, events or symbols from the novel, develop a thesis-based essay in which you discuss how the novel is a social examination of women and their place in society as determined by others.
- b. Identify 2-3 situations in the novel where women find themselves in oppressive situations. Then develop a thesis-based essay in which you discuss whether or not similar instances of oppression are found in contemporary society.

Be sure to organize your ideas, paying specific attention to the development of your thesis, introductory paragraph, body paragraphs, conclusion paragraph, topic sentences, and transitional sentences. Also include relevant details (i.e. quotes/examples) in your essay.

The essay will be graded using the attached English Department Writing Rubric.

\*If you have any questions, please email Ms. Colavecchio at [lcolavecchio@hvrhs.org](mailto:lcolavecchio@hvrhs.org). You may also visit Ms. Colavecchio's website and download the outline packet to help with organization.

Enjoy your reading!