***Hotel on the Corner of Bitter and Sweet***

Jamie Ford’s *Hotel on the Corner of Bitter and Sweet* will be offered as a summer reading option for incoming Honors English 9 students. The novel provides an historical perspective on the treatment of Japanese Americans during World War Two. The novel will be used in a discussion of the link between format and voice, addressing all of Benchmark 3 and its indicators, including explaining the relationship between style and literary effect along with discussing the characteristics that distinguish literary forms. Ford’s novel offers a non-linear plot which jumps between time periods to unfold two parallel story lines.

Ford’s novel offers a look at teenage love and the challenges faced by different minority groups during a tumultuous period in U.S. history. The novel lends itself to comparisons of *Romeo and Juliet* along with *Night*, set during the same time but showing a completely different account of hardship.

***The Fault in Our Stars***

John Green’s *The Fault in Our Stars* will be offered as a summer reading option for incoming Honors English 9 students. The novel offers a unique perspective on themes of young love/relationships as it is told from the perspective of a terminally-ill cancer patient and 16-year-old. The novel will be used in a discussion of the link between format and voice, addressing all of Benchmark 3 and its indicators, including explaining the relationship between style and literary effect along with discussing the characteristics that distinguish literary forms.

While Green’s novel addresses teenage love and has a female narrator, the voice of the narrator is one that can be universally related to and deals with issues of loss and purpose in an at times humorous and at times heart-breaking manner. The novel pairs nicely with *Romeo and Juliet* in addressing issues of “forbidden” love, disappointment, and death.

***The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian***

Sherman Alexie’s *The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian* will be offered as a summer reading option for incoming Honors English 9 students. The novel is unique in its combination of narrative and illustrations in a format that bridges the gap between graphic novel and traditional novel. The novel will be used in a discussion of the link between format and voice, addressing all of Benchmark 3 and its indicators, including explaining the relationship between style and literary effect along with discussing the characteristics that distinguish literary forms.

Alexie’s novel offers a male perspective that is often missing in YA literature used in the classroom, offering a male perspective on romantic relationships and the struggle for self-realization all teenagers suffer through. Further, it offers a look into the Native American culture.