

May 2008

Dear Incoming Freshman and Parents:

The Freshman English Teachers would like to welcome you to Lake Park High School. We look forward to working with you as you begin your high school journey, which is certain to be filled with exciting memories.

One of Lake Park's top priorities is improving literacy and increasing reading achievement. Throughout freshman year, there will be an increased focus on reading strategies across the curriculum.

Beginning with the Class of 2012, all incoming freshmen are required to participate in a **mandatory summer reading program**. Prior to the start of school in August, students are required to read *Speak*, a young adult novel written by Laurie Halse Anderson. *Speak* addresses some of the struggles that are common to high school students.

Students are required to complete a close reading of *Speak* and to take notes in the margins of their own copy of the novel. *Speak* may be purchased at area bookstores (such as Barnes and Noble and Borders) and is available at Amazon.com. The purchase price of the book ranges from \$10-\$12.

Enclosed is a bookmark that outlines the expectations for this novel and should serve as a guide in all reading and note-taking efforts. We ask that students focus on three areas while reading and taking notes:

1) summaries, 2) identifying and discussing themes, and 3) sharing personal comments, thoughts, and questions throughout the text. **This assignment should be finished prior to the first day of the fall semester.** The opening week of school will include class discussion of *Speak* followed by a test.

The Lake Park Summer Reading Program is a great opportunity to keep our students' minds active and engaged in learning and literacy as they prepare for their first year in high school. If any questions arise regarding the purchase of the novel, expectations, or the assignment (reading or note taking), please email Darcie Murray, a freshman English teacher, at dmurray@lphs.org or call Lynne Panega, Associate Superintendent for Curriculum, at 630-295-5440.

Have a wonderful summer. We look forward to seeing you in August!

Sincerely,

The Freshman English Teachers