



# Segerstrom High School

**“A Fundamental School”**

SANTA ANA UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

Dr. Amy Avina, Principal

June 2012

Dear Parents and Guardians of Incoming Ninth-Grade Segerstrom Students:

Welcome to Segerstrom! Our Instructional Focus is “Read! Write! Learn!” Segerstrom has always assigned summer reading to its students as preparation for their work in the fall. Literacy is emphasized throughout the curriculum. This focus is the foundation upon which the English 9 course is built and will be at the center of all we do this year. This year, we are assigning the same novel to each and every student in grades 9-12: Roland Smith’s *Peak*. By ascribing to the “One Book, One Community” theory of reading, we hope to build a community over the summer in which students and staff alike experience the joy of reading a common title and are thus able to discuss the novel across the campus.

In an effort to keep your minds sharp and prepare your critical thinking and reading skills for this course, we ask that you complete the following assignments.

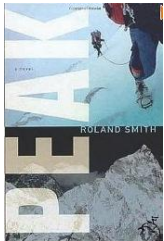
**All incoming ninth-grade students are expected to complete the following summer-reading assignment in preparation for their English classes:**

- Read our schoolwide novel, *Peak* by Roland Smith. Students will complete an examination on this novel by **the end of the first six-week grading period** in September.

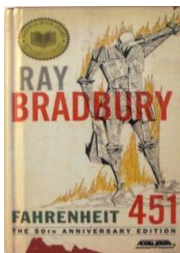
**In addition, all incoming honors ninth-grade students are also expected to complete the following summer-reading assignment in preparation for their English classes:**

- Read *Fahrenheit 451* by Ray Bradbury. Students will write a mandatory Expository essay and complete an examination to assess their understanding of the novel during the **third week of the school year**.

We are providing your student with a free copy of *Peak* right now. Please take care of this book. If your student loses or damages this copy, a replacement fee will be incurred. Copies of *Fahrenheit 451* will be provided in August. Students who want to get a head start on this reading can find the book at local bookstores and/or libraries.



*The only thing you'll find on the summit of Mount Everest is a divine view. The things that really matter lie far below. –Peak Marcello*  
After fourteen-year-old Peak Marcello is arrested for scaling a New York City skyscraper, he's left with a choice: wither away in juvenile detention or fly to Kathmandu with his long-lost father. Peak quickly learns that his father's renewed interest in him has strings attached. As owner of Peak Expeditions, he wants his son to be the youngest person to reach the Everest summit. The story of Peak's dangerous ascent—told in his own words—is suspenseful, immediate, and impossible to put down.  
Awards: ALA Best Book for Young Adults, ALA Quick Pick for Reluctant Young Adult Readers, New York Public Library Book for the Teen Age, Booklist Editors' Choice, National Book Award Winner, Junior Library Guild Selection



Ray Bradbury's internationally acclaimed novel *Fahrenheit 451* is a masterwork of twentieth-century literature set in a bleak, dystopian future.  
Guy Montag is a fireman. In his world, where television rules and literature is on the brink of extinction, firemen start fires rather than put them out. His job is to destroy the most illegal of commodities, the printed book, along with the houses in which they are hidden. Montag never questions the destruction and ruin his actions produce, returning each day to his bland life and wife, Mildred, who spends all day with her television “family.” But then he meets an eccentric young neighbor, Clarisse, who introduces him to a past where people didn't live in fear and to a present where one sees the world through the ideas in books instead of the mindless chatter of television. When Mildred attempts suicide and Clarisse suddenly disappears, Montag begins to question everything he has ever known. He starts hiding books in his home, and when his pilfering is discovered, the fireman has to run for his life.

Sincerely,

The Segerstrom English Department