



Seegerstrom High School

“A Fundamental School”

SANTA ANA UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

Dr. Amy Avina, Principal

May 2011

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

Welcome to Seegerstrom! Our Instructional Focus is “Read! Write! Learn!” 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. 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.

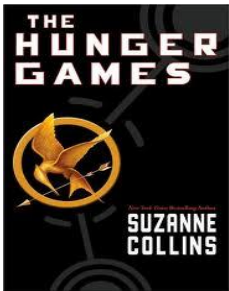
All incoming ninth-grade students are expected to complete the following summer-reading assignment in preparation for their English classes:

Read our schoolwide novel, *The Hunger Games* by Suzanne Collins. Students will complete an examination on this novel at **the end of the first six-week grading period** in October.

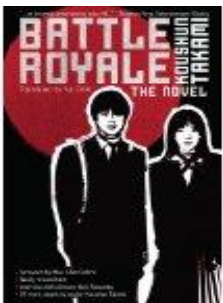
In addition, all incoming honors ninth-grade students are also expected to complete the following summer-reading assignment in preparation for their English classes:

Read Koushun Takkami’s *Battle Royale*. Students will write a mandatory Response to Literature 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 *The Hunger Games* right now. Please take care of this book. If your student loses or damages this copy, a replacement fee will be incurred. Copies of *Battle Royale* 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.



Twenty-four are forced to enter. Only the winner survives. In the ruins of a place once known as North America lies the nation of Panem, a shining Capitol surrounded by twelve outlying districts. Each year, the districts are forced by the Capitol to send one boy and one girl between the ages of twelve and eighteen to participate in the Hunger Games, a brutal and terrifying fight to the death – televised for all of Panem to see. Survival is second nature for sixteen-year-old Katniss Everdeen, who struggles to feed her mother and younger sister by secretly hunting and gathering beyond the fences of District 12. When Katniss steps in to take the place of her sister in the Hunger Games, she knows it may be her death sentence. If she is to survive, she must weigh survival against humanity and life against love.



In an alternative future Japan, junior high students are forced to fight to the death! L to R (Western Style). Koushun Takami's notorious high-octane thriller is based on an irresistible premise: a class of junior high school students is taken to a deserted island where, as part of a ruthless authoritarian program, they are provided arms and forced to kill one another until only one survivor is left standing. *Battle Royale* is a *Lord of the Flies* for the 21st century; a potent allegory of what it means to be young and (barely) alive in a dog-eat-dog world. Koushun Takami's brutal, high-octane thriller is told in breathless, blow-by-blow fashion.

Sincerely,

The Seegerstrom English Department