Dear Parents and Guardians:

I am excited that your son/daughter has signed up to take AP® Psychology during the 2017-2018 school year! AP® Psychology is an elective, college-level course that deals with content and expectations that will require maturity on behalf of the students enrolled in it. For a complete course description, please visit the College Board’s website (https://apstudent.collegeboard.org/apcourse) and click on the appropriate course name.

The AP® Psychology course will introduce your student to college-level rigor while helping them prepare for the AP® Exam. An AP® Exam score of 3 or higher (depending on the college) can earn them college credit. While the goal is for every student to earn college credit, students must meet 2 out of 3 of the following criteria in order to be recommended for the exam:

- Complete 90% of course assignments.
- Score a 3 or higher (or 80%) on the Mock AP Exam by March 2019.
- Achieve an overall grade average of 80 or above by the end of the third marking period.

This year’s Summer Reading Assignment will help your child prepare for the course by selecting a book from the attached reading list and completing two separate writing assignments: 1) Handwritten Reflection (while reading) and 2) Critical Book Review (after reading). Since some of the books on the list deal with more mature content, please help your child select a book that you are comfortable with them reading. The list includes a variety of books—I want the students to select something that they are interested in! While some titles may be difficult to obtain, there are plenty of titles available and accessible via the library system or through an online book seller.

Thank you in advance for your help and support with these course policies and requirements. I look forward to working with you and your child during the next school year. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Amy Jessee
AP® Psychology Teacher
amy.jessee@sccpss.com

GoogleClassroom Code: 43qh9z
Assignment Checklist: Please make sure that you have the following items submitted to GoogleClassroom (class code: 43qh9z) by Wednesday, August 1st:

- 3 handwritten (in blue/black ink) reflections (that were completed while you read the book you selected)

Welcome to AP® Psychology! You have signed up for a course that will be rigorous, interesting, and fun. Psychology is the scientific study of human behavior, which requires an in-depth investigation of a variety of concepts. AP® Psychology is an elective, college-level course that will deal with content that will require maturity on behalf of the students enrolled in it.

This class not only introduces students to college level rigor, but it will also prepare you for the AP® exam. Students who score a 3 or higher on the exam may be eligible for college credit. Please keep in mind that all students must meet certain eligibility criteria to be recommended for testing. All students who pass the course will earn high school credit.

This summer assignment will help you prepare for success. First, you must select a book to read. Please select a reading that interests YOU. The books are divided into course topics to help you understand how the reading relates to the content in the course. Since some of the books below deal with more mature content, I have asked that you get your parent’s permission before reading. Next, read your book while keeping an ongoing handwritten reflection. Finally, create and submit a Critical Review according to the directions below.

**Writing Assignment #1: Reading Reflections (10 points each)**

Write THREE handwritten reflections that convey your reactions and thoughts while reading the book. Each reflection should be thoughtful and thorough but under one page in length (total of 3 pages at most). Each reflection should be based on a specific passage or portion of the book. Designate the passage in your reflection by briefly summarizing what you are responding to. The challenge of the reflection will be keeping this response brief! Your response to the summarized passage may include: critiques, questions, disagreements, items you agree with, ideas you like (explain why), connections to personal experience, etc. Keep in mind that these items are suggestions; you do not have to include ALL of these items in each reflection.

The purpose of this portion of the assignment is to make you think WHILE you read. You will appreciate the reading more if you reflect on the book as you are reading; so please do not fabricate reflections after you have finished the book. You will be assessed on the quality of your writing (how clearly you convey your reflection) and not on the ideas that you express in your reflection. Please use blue or black in and write clearly enough for your words to be understood. Keep a dictionary handy for reference purposes.

**Writing Assignment #2: Critical Book Review (50 points total)**

When you are finished with the book, you will write a 2-3 page typed review of the book. Your review should include a(n):

- **Introduction** of the book and the author
- **Summary** of the main argument and key points in the book
- **Explanation** of how the book relates to psychology
- **Evaluation** of how well the book makes its argument (or explanation- depending on the book you selected). *Some books will explain a psychological phenomenon, some will argue for or against a psychological theory.*
- **Book discussion**: includes thoughtful questions you have about the subject of the book and what you learned about psychology while reading this book

GoogleClassroom Code: 43qh9z
**Reading List (please select ONE book from the list below):**

Students are responsible for obtaining their own book in a timely manner. Begin reading by June and be prepared to start writing by mid-July to avoid late submission fees.

**Experimental Psychology**


This book covers studies that have been cited frequently, have stirred up controversy, sparked the most subsequent related research opened new fields of psychological exploration, and changed our knowledge of human behavior.


This author covers 10 different influential and often controversial psychological experiments that had a major impact on the study of psychology. These studies are all still discussed in psychology today.


Lemov, a historian and anthropologist, addresses nearly a century of study into "human engineering," the idea that behavior can be modified through manipulation of the surrounding environment. She describes not only influential experiments in psychology, but their long term effects on our society.


Experiments with People showcases 28 intriguing studies that have significantly advanced our understanding of human thought and social behavior.


This collection of case studies provides a compelling insight into the human mind. This is a fascinating collection of human stories. Some are well-known case studies that have informed clinical practice, others are relatively unknown.

**Neuropsychology**


Synthesis of recent research in neuroscience to explain how the interactions between nerve cells in the brain creates what we experience as personality.


This book tells the stories of individuals afflicted with fantastic perceptual and intellectual aberrations.


This book tells the stories of the survivors of brain injuries as they struggle to map and make sense of the new worlds they inhabit.
Language, Intelligence, and Cognition


Henry M. underwent experimental brain surgery in 1953 and has since lived only in the present. He can talk and read and write, but has no memory for what has just happened -- every minute is a new experience for him.


Recent work by one of the foremost experts on sleep and the emergence of dreams.


Highly regarded book on optimism, pessimism, and positive thinking based on research and theory in cognitive psychology. The author, a leader in the “positive psychology” movement, believes optimism and pessimism are learned and so can be changed. Includes self-tests and practical advice.


Spanning fifty books and hundreds of ideas, 50 Psychology Classics examines some of the most intriguing questions regarding cognitive development and behavioral motivations, summarizing the myriad theories that psychologists have put forth to make sense of the human experience.


This book studies the origin and evolution of language, and highlights studies from the major players in the study of linguistics (including Noam Chomsky).


This book is an account of the ways in which we attempt to measure intelligence, and the mis-steps (according to him) that we have taken in the pursuit to create a reliable measurement tool.

Sensation and Perception


Readable account of how we see including lots of visual illusions.


Sacks tells the stories of people who are able to navigate the world and communicate with others despite losing what many of us consider indispensable senses and abilities: the power of speech, the capacity to recognize faces, the sense of three-dimensional space, the ability to read, the sense of sight.
Developmental Psychology


An account of the extent to which biology and prenatal influences affect human development, with a discussion of the social and moral implications of those influences.


You will not find a more thorough presentation of what is known about twins and how they have contributed to our knowledge of psychology.


The compelling story of a young woman's emergence into the world after spending her first 13 years strapped to a chair, and her rescue and exploitation by scientists hoping to gain new insight into language acquisition.


This book investigates why girls have become more aggressive over time. Combining clinical experience with incisive analyses of social trends, Garbarino traces the factors behind the epidemic: girls’ increased participation in sports and greater comfort with their physicality, but also their lack of training in handling aggression.

Psychological Disorders


Divided Minds is a dual memoir of identical twins, one of whom faces a life sentence of schizophrenia, and the other who becomes a psychiatrist, after entering the spotlight that had for so long been focused on her sister.


This is the powerful and moving story of one person’s struggle with Multiple Personality Disorder.


Elias Aboujaoude, an expert on obsessive compulsive disorder and behavioral addictions, tells stories inspired by memorable patients he has treated, taking us from initial contact through the stages of the doctor-patient relationship.


Companion book to an HBO documentary assesses our current understanding of addiction, combining expert opinions with personal narratives of impact of this epidemic on addicts, their friends and family, and our society.


A beautifully written account of manic bipolar disorder, written by a professor of psychiatry who is a victim of the disorder. A central theme is her reluctance to take the drug lithium even though it will be beneficial because she is afraid to lose the creative energy that comes with the disorder.


Balanced and readable survey of what is known about the causes and treatment of this disorder.

Excellent historical narrative of how the treatment of the mentally ill in western society has evolved from the 18th century to the present.

**Social Psychology**


Applies current theory of aggression to sport, *inter alia* how players become acclimatized to physical violence, the psychological benefits of sport violence, the problem of spectator aggression and the moral and ethical dimensions of the issue.


Interesting review of work by social psychologists to explain self-deception, the human tendency to justify and adhere to mistaken actions and beliefs long after there is reason to admit error.


Zimbardo explains how we are susceptible to the lure of “the dark side” and offers an explanation of a variety of phenomena, from corporate malfeasance to organized genocide to how once upstanding American soldiers came to abuse and torture Iraqi detainees in Abu Ghraib.