Dear parents,

I first and foremost want to thank you for your efforts with your students, and applaud you for the work ethic you have instilled in so many of them.

Second, I realize some of you are concerned about the volume of work they are receiving overall and have received lately. Your concerns are valid, and I hear them.

Without going into exhaustive detail about the forces at play in deciding on our hourly, daily, weekly, monthly, card-marking, semester, and year-long schedules, I will say that I try to be aware at all times of the fact that my students are honors students. I know they tend to take advanced classes in clusters, all of which will be accelerated and therefore carry with them heavier work loads. Thus, increasing the load in my class has a greater effect on the students than if I were to give the same amount in a non-honors class. I also realize that honors students tend to be the most involved in extra-curricular activities, whether sports or clubs, and that these activities can take quite a bit of time. I further acknowledge that we want time for our students to be children and to have time with friends and family.

All of these are factors I consider when I determine the amount of work I will give on any particular night. It is my goal that a particularly onerous night of assignments will be the exception rather than the rule.

I hope that over the course of the semester and the year (if your students and I are fortunate enough to have one another again), that you will find I have been successful, and that while the occasional night of aheavy work load may happen, the bulk of them will be appropriate for a 10th grade honors student who wishes to excel in AP Language in the 11th grade.

If you wish to discuss this further with me, I will be more than happy to speak with you.

Best,

M. Palise