Welcome to AP Psychology. I am excited that you have decided to join this class and chose to challenge yourself with the fascinating world of psychology. I am certain that you will find this course worthwhile and personally relevant. Although it is the summer, there is some work to be done to prepare us for the upcoming year and for the AP exam that will be here before you know it.

With that being said, it is imperative that we get a jump start on the AP Psychology curriculum. It is mandatory and in your best interest to complete the summer assignment. Your summer assignment is comprised of **FOUR** mini-assignments. Each assignment will serve a specific purpose that will assist you throughout the school year and aid in your preparations for May.

**Assignment #1 – “Vocabulary will show you the way”**

Define the following vocabulary terms. Once you have defined the vocabulary terms, use your understanding of their definitions to group appropriate terms together and provide a brief rationale for your term groupings/associations. There should be a minimum of 4 groupings. These terms will be utilized during the first unit and will be included in your course assessments and on the AP Psychology Examination.

- Psychology
- Empiricism
- Structuralism
- Functionalism
- Applied Research
- Psychiatry
- Natural Selection
- Basic Research
- Nature vs. Nurture Issue
- Biopsychosocial Approach
- Levels of Analysis
- Approaches to Psychology
  - Biological
  - Evolutionary
  - Psychodynamic
  - Behavioral
  - Cognitive
  - Humanistic
  - Sociocultural
Assignment #2 – “The Dinner Party”  

Research the ideology and beliefs of 10 of psychology’s most influential individuals. Create a seating arrangement for a dinner party for 10 of the great minds of psychology. Explain and justify your reasons for who sits together in terms of theories and theoretical perspectives.

1. Wilhelm Wundt  
2. Sigmund Freud  
3. Edward Titchner  
4. Abraham Maslow  
5. John Watson  
6. Charles Darwin  
7. Ivan Pavlov  
8. B.F. Skinner  
9. Carl Rogers  
10. William James  

Assignment #3 – “TED”  

TED is a nonprofit organization devoted to spreading ideas in short, powerful talks in approximately 20 minutes. TED is an acronym for technology, entertainment, and design. I have sifted through the psychology section of TED and found 11 “talks” that could be of interest. Of these eleven you are to watch any FIVE of your choosing. After listening to these lectures, you will provide a one paragraph summary of each. Feel free to incorporate your opinion of the talk and discuss terms or ideas you found interesting or confounding.

Martin Seligman: New Era of Positive Psychology  
Elizabeth Loftus: How Reliable is Your Memory  
Susan Cain: Power of Introverts  
Keith Barry: Brain Magic  
Tony Robbins: Why We Do What We Do  
Angela Lee Duckworth: The Key to Success – Grit  
Amy Cuddy: Body Language Shapes Who You Are  
Dan Gilbert: Surprise Science of Happiness  
Pamela Meyer: How to Spot a Liar  
Ben Ambridge: 10 Myths About Psychology Debunked  
Shawn Achor: The Happy Secret to Better Work
Assignment #4 – “Failing to Prepare is Preparing to Fail”

This assignment is easy. Purchase the supplies for this class before the first day of school. No one likes waiting in the ridiculously long lines at Staples and Target early in September. Buy what you need this summer and avoid that scene all together. Or you could be like me and become best friends with Amazon.com. Here is what you will need...

❖ A notebook or 3 ring binder with lots of loose leaf paper
❖ Pens and/or pencils
❖ Index cards – at least 100 (probably more). 3x5 or 4x6, either is ok. Flash cards, although some may see them as juvenile, are a tried and trusted study method.

This assignment will count as your first TEST GRADE. Late assignments will be penalized by 5 points off per school day. I can be reached at lharnick@obenschools.org if you have any questions and/or concerns. I look forward to working with all of you this September.

Keep in mind that psychology is everywhere. Everything we do, think, and feel can be related back to psychology. This class will benefit you both inside and outside of the classroom. Have a great summer!