

Dear Parents,

I hope this letter finds you and your loved ones well.

We have all struggled through this global pandemic, the quarantine and the shutting down of school. But watching and speaking with students throughout these past few months has given me hope and filled me with admiration for your children. I've witnessed such a resilience in students and an ability to find and foster a positive perspective on a challenging situation. Your children are truly remarkable, and I am so excited to welcome them back to school for the 2020-2021 academic year.

This year, summer may look a lot different from previous years for many of you. I believe that now more than ever, we need books to help us connect, understand and, of course, escape. I'm sure many of you and your children have done a good amount of reading over this time period, and I hope that continues throughout the summer. With that in mind, our summer reading list is meant to ensure that student reading will be not only intellectually stimulating and educational, but pleasurable as well. We have compiled a list of required and choice books that strike the right balance between academically challenging and entertaining material.

Students of incoming grade levels 9th through 11th will be responsible for reading one required book and completing an assignment, and in some cases reading a choice book as well. Incoming seniors will read one required book and write a first draft of their college essay in order to get a head start on the college application process.

In addition, now that most summer programs for high school students have switched to online, you have access to some of the best writing programs available throughout the country. I've included links below with a comprehensive list of excellent programs. This is not required, but for those of you looking for plans, I encourage you to check it out.

Happy reading, and please do not hesitate to contact me should you have any questions concerning the reading list.

All the Best,

Leah Handwerger

English Department Chair

lhandwerger@rasg.org

Writing Programs:

<https://studenteducationprograms.com/writing/> *This link is mainly creative writing programs, with some good college prep ones as well.*

<https://blog.prepscholar.com/pre-college-summer-programs-for-high-school-students> *This link includes college prep writing courses and a variety of programs in other disciplines.*