



“Appearance Responsibility Respect Order Wisdom”

May 31, 2017

Dear 7th Grade Honors English Student and Parent,

As a committee, we are pleased that you chose to register for the honors program at Indian Hills Middle School. We look forward to seeing you in the fall and invite you to prepare for your new 7th grade experience through a summer reading adventure. Richard Wright in the book *Black Boy* said, “I hungered for books, new ways of looking and seeing. It was not the matter of believing or disbelieving what I read, but of feeling something new, of being affected by something that made the look of the world different.”

As lifelong readers, you no doubt look forward to summer every year – sitting outside in a lounge chair, a light breeze blowing on your face, a cool drink within reach, and a good book in your hand. I love summer reading! It is a chance to indulge and to enjoy words, characters, and adventures different from everyday life.

Even though your summer has not yet begun, you are probably looking forward to continuing your adventure in middle school during 7th grade. This letter is to invite you to begin that adventure a little sooner. During this summer, all honors English students will participate in summer reading. Seventh grade honors English students will read an exciting book about mountain climbing called *Banner in the Sky* by James Ramsey Ullman. This book is about sixteen-year-old Rudi Matt, the son of a famous mountain climber and guide who dies before he can realize his dream of conquering the biggest mountain in Switzerland. Rudi wants to follow in his father’s footsteps, but his mother and uncle are against it because it’s too dangerous. Doesn’t it sound good?

Students may purchase their own copies of the book, obtain one from a city library, or may stop by the office at the school during the month of June to borrow one. Please be sure you check the office for the hours they are open. Also, before you begin reading, you will need to log onto Canvas to complete some online activities. There are activities to do before, during, and after the reading. Review the enclosed instructions on how to access Canvas and on what to do. Before the reading you will need to watch and respond to videos about mountain climbing and take a virtual tour of the city where this novel is set. During the reading, you will participate in a discussion involving important questions from the novel, practice a strategy called ACE (answer, cite, explain), and respond to others’ comments in an academic discussion forum. After the reading, you will construct your own banner to bring to class during the first few days of school.

Through this shared reading, you will meet new friends and chat with current friends before you even arrive at Indian Hills for your 7th grade year. All honors English students will have a common understanding on the very first day, and you will have fun exploring some new technology along the way.

Happy summer reading to you! We look forward to seeing you in the fall.

Sincerely,

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7th Grade Honors English Summer Reading Assignments

BEFORE YOU READ

- Go to the Canyons School District website (www.canyonsdistrict.org). Click on the “CANVAS” link on the right-hand side of the home page.



- Login with your usual login information:
 - **Username:** first letter of your first name + first three letters of your last name + last four digits of your student ID number (no spaces)
 - **Password:** (from your school account)
 - From the “dashboard” or “courses” menu, select “IHMS 7th Grade Summer Reading.” (This course will open on June 15th, so you will not be able to see this link before then.)

- After you do this, you will see the home page. Be sure to **READ CAREFULLY!** The instructions should be very clear. You will need to complete **ALL** of the pages in this course. To see all of the pages, you must first click on the “Modules” link.

The screenshot shows the IHMS SumReading website interface. On the left, a navigation menu includes links for Home, Syllabus, Announcements, Grades, Modules (circled in red), Courses, Calendar, and Inbox. A red box with the text "BEGIN HERE" has an arrow pointing to the "Modules" link. The main content area displays a welcome message for the 7th grade team and a book cover for "Banner in the Sky" by James Ramsey Ullman. The right sidebar shows a list of modules under the heading "IHMS SumReading > Modules". The modules are organized into three sections: "Before Reading Banner in the Sky" (including Before the Reading Instructions, Too young?, A Virtual Mountain Climb, Terrain of the Matterhorn, The Town of Kurtal (A.K.A. Zermatt), and Zermatt Story), "During the Reading of Banner in the Sky" (including During the Reading Instructions, Chapters 1-5, Chapters 6-10, Chapters 11-15, and Chapters 16-19), and "After the Reading of Banner in the Sky" (including Creating Your Own Banner).

- Obtain a copy of the book Banner in the Sky by James Ramsey Ullman. You may buy it, rent it from the library, or rent it from the school by coming to the main office (at the new Crescent View building location) after June 15th and through the end of June. The books will not be available in July or August.

AFTER THE READING

- Create a banner to bring to school on Tuesday, August 29, 2017. Your banner may be made of cloth, paper, or any other material that is appropriate for what you want to say. What would you want posted at the top of your personal mountain? If you had climbed all that way, conquering many challenges as you climbed, what message would you leave at the top as your message to the world? Be thoughtful about your word choice and design. Your banner should reflect you and your beliefs about what is important in life. Remember to use colors and symbols or images. You may draw it or use your computer (or sew it), and don't forget to include your first and last name. You will be using your in class on the **August 29th**. This banner and the assignment that accompanies it will be your first graded assessment in Honors English. The banner will then be hung on the wall in several different classrooms. (I'm thinking poster size or less here; check Canvas for examples.) Because they are being used for an in-class assignment, banners **MUST** be here on **August 29th**.