



“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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