



June 17, 2022

Dear IDEAL Families:

We are excited to welcome the incoming sixth grade class to the Upper School next year. Each year, the English and math departments develop summer work that will engage, challenge, and prepare students for their transition to Middle School. This work is designed to cultivate our students' love of reading, curiosity, and background knowledge, as well as maintain skills over the summer.

1. *The Hunger Games* by Suzanne Collins (required for all students)

All students are required to read [*The Hunger Games*](#) by Suzanne Collins. In conjunction with this required text, students must complete a set of reading comprehension questions ([Link](#)) and be prepared to discuss *The Hunger Games* when they return to school. ***Students will be assessed on their reading within the first couple of weeks of school and therefore must arrive having completed their reading with care and thought.***

We recognize that the reading levels of our students vary and encourage you to read with your child or to use an audiobook or graphic novel as a supporting text (not as a replacement for the complete text). In addition, students may watch the movie version of *The Hunger Games* to complement their reading of the text, but students may NOT replace the reading book with watching the movie. In individualized cases, we will reach out personally with differentiated summer reading options.

2. Student Choice (each student must select and complete *at least one book* from the suggested reading list)

All Middle School students are also required to select and read *at least one book* from the [attached list](#) of Student Choice books. They must complete the [attached](#) reading log to keep track of the Student Choice book they read, as well as any additional books they read, and be prepared to discuss one additional selected book upon their return in the fall.

3. IXL work

Each student should complete this [IXL LOG](#) over the summer for practice work for a minimum of 30 minutes per week. Students should work on the recommended math activities that appear on their homepage and/or take the diagnostic assessment which will support them in identifying skills to work on.

Purchasing and Accessing Books

All students must purchase copies of *The Hunger Games* and bring them to school on the first day. Students should be highlighting and annotating as they read this book.

Student Choice books may be purchased, read on a Kindle/electronic reader, or borrowed from the library. Additionally, Student Choice books are available on the online platform Bookshare (www.bookshare.org). Please refer to the attached [Bookshare login guide](#).

We wish everyone a relaxing and wonderful summer, filled with adventures and laughter. Please remember to work with your child throughout the summer to complete this work, which will form the basis of our first class discussions and your child's first grades in Middle School English. Do not hesitate to reach out to [Joanne Ginis](#), Middle School Head, with questions this summer.

Best,
Julius Adena
Middle School English Teacher
The IDEAL School of Manhattan