



May 17, 2017

Dear IDEAL Families:

It has been a pleasure partnering with you and sharing in your children's moments of personal and academic growth throughout the year. It is hard to believe that we are already looking ahead to the 2017-18 school year.

The summer work developed by our English department is designed to cultivate our students' love of reading, curiosity, and background knowledge. There are two parts to the Middle School's summer reading assignment:

**1. All seventh grade students are required to read *Stargirl* by Jerry Spinelli:**

(the summary below is from Goodreads.com)

*From the day she arrives at quiet Mica High in a burst of color and sound, the hallways hum with the murmur of "Stargirl, Stargirl." She captures Leo Borlock's heart with just one smile. She sparks a school-spirit revolution with just one cheer. The students of Mica High are enchanted. At first. Then they turn on her. Stargirl is suddenly shunned for everything that makes her different, and Leo, panicked and desperate with love, urges her to become the very thing that can destroy her: normal. In this celebration of nonconformity, Newbery Medalist Jerry Spinelli weaves a tense, emotional tale about the perils of popularity and the thrill and inspiration of first love.* [www.goodreads.com](http://www.goodreads.com)

**2. One book from suggested reading list:** In addition to *Stargirl*, we are requiring all Middle School students to select and read one books from the attached list. Students may purchase their books, read electronic or kindle versions, or borrow from the library.

To guide students' reading of *Stargirl*, the English department will be sending home packets with comprehension questions, in both hardcopy and digital form, on June 15. Students should complete these questions and be prepared to discuss *Stargirl* when they return to school. Students should also complete the attached reading log to keep track of the book they read from the list of choices, as well as any books they read on their own, and be prepared to discuss one additional selected book upon their return in the fall. In individualized cases, we will be reaching out shortly with a differentiated reading list.

**The math department's summer work is designed to help students retain their math skills by providing ongoing practice at the appropriate level.** The department is requiring students to complete

at least six hours of online math work, based on your child's current level, over the summer. Students will each be provided with a math log to record their math work. Karin Wolff, the Director of Technology, will be in touch on June 15th, with the your child's current IXL level, usernames, and passwords.

We wish everyone a relaxing and wonderful summer, filled with adventures and lots of laughter. Please work with your child to help with the selection of books and with the pacing of reading and math assignments so that it does not become overwhelming. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to ask.

Best,  
JT and Emily