



Dear IDEAL Families:

We are excited to welcome the incoming sixth grade class to the Upper School next year. Knowing that the transition to Middle School can be equally exciting and intimidating for many students, our departments have been working hard to develop summer work that will challenge and prepare them for sixth grade, enabling them to hit the ground running. We are looking forward to welcoming them in September to the 89th street campus.

The summer work developed by our English department is designed to cultivate our students' love of reading, curiosity, and background knowledge. This year we have picked a book that is sure to engage and challenge our students. There are two parts to the Middle School's summer reading assignment:

1. **All Sixth grade students will be reading *Matilda*, Roald Dahl**

(the summary below is from Goodreads.com)

Matilda is a little girl who is far too good to be true. At age five-and-a-half she's knocking off double-digit multiplication problems and blitz-reading Dickens. Even more remarkably, her classmates love her even though she's a super-nerd and the teacher's pet. But everything is not perfect in Matilda's world. For starters she has two of the most idiotic, self-centered parents who ever lived. Then there's the large, busty nightmare of a school principal, Mrs. ("The") Trunchbull, a former hammer-throwing champion who flings children at will and is approximately as sympathetic as a bulldozer. Fortunately for Matilda, she has the inner resources to deal with such annoyances: astonishing intelligence, saintly patience, and an innate predilection for revenge.

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

To guide students' reading of *Matilda*, the English department will be sending home packets with reading comprehension questions. Students should complete these questions and be prepared to discuss *Matilda* 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.

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 assignments so that it does not become overwhelming. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to ask.

Best,

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