



June 18, 2021

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. There are several parts to the Grade 6 assignments outlined below and with further links here.

### **1. *Hatchet*, by Gary Paulson (required for all students)**

All English 6 students are required to read *Hatchet*, by Gary Paulson. In conjunction with this required text, students must complete a set of reading comprehension questions ([linked here](#)) and be prepared to discuss *Hatchet* when they return to school. **Students will be assessed on their reading within the first week of school and therefore must arrive having completed their reading and questions with care and thought.** Students should be **highlighting** and **annotating** as they read this book.

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 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.

**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](http://www.bookshare.org)). Please refer to the attached [Bookshare login guide](#).

### **3. IXL work**

Each student should use [IXL Math](#) for practice work.



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 Upper School Head Sam Keany, Assistant Upper School Head Emily Kuntz, or either of us with questions this summer.

Upper School English Department