June 18, 2021

Dear IDEAL Families:

It has been a pleasure partnering with you and sharing in your children's personal and academic growth throughout the year. Each year, the English department develops summer work that will engage, challenge, and prepare students for the next school year. This work is designed to cultivate our students' love of reading, curiosity, and background knowledge. There are **two books** in this year's Honors summer reading assignment:

***Schindler's List* by Thomas Keneally and *The Things They Carried* by Tim O'Brien**
All English Honors students are required to read these two books. In conjunction with this required text, students must annotate their books and when they return to school they will write an essay based on the [following essay topics](#). Families should purchase from the following link a copy of *[The Things They Carried](#)*. Students should be **highlighting** and **annotating** as they read these books.

Student Choice: All High 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, or read on a Kindle/electronic reader. 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 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. 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.

Best,

Upper School English Department