



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 parts to the Middle School's summer reading assignment:

**1. *The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian*, by Sherman Alexie (required for all students)**

All English 8 students are required to read *The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian*, by Sherman Alexie. In conjunction with this required text, students must complete a set of reading [comprehension questions \(linked here\)](#) and be prepared to discuss the book 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 questions with care and thought.** Students should be **highlighting** and **annotating** as they read this book.

**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. Math IXL practice:** To maintain your math skills, we ask that you do IXL Practice as described in this [IXL Practice Document](#).

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