June 2023

Dear current Middle School Families, Rising Fifth Graders, and New to Cannon Families,

Congratulations on completing another great school year, friends! This year was truly a great one, full of joyful energy, enthusiastic engagement, and growth in many ways for every community member. I hope your summer is filled with whatever makes you happy and allows you to recharge the batteries. On my agenda I have a trip to Phoenix to see my daughter (otherwise, why would anyone go to AZ in the summer?), a trip to Chicago to meet our son and watch some Phillies games (see what I did there!), and our annual trip to Kiawah (our happy place). Pat and I will celebrate 34 years of marriage this year, and I plan to read, run some trails, and relax in between all of the activities.

We wrapped up the year with a meeting with all of our middle school students where we talked about summer technology habits and a reminder to keep our core values in mind when interacting online. We urge kids to use their screens sparingly, as we hope they are having fun with friends, connecting with family, playing club sports, riding their horses, attending camps, seeing the state, our country, or the world, and learning how to be a little bored!

As is our tradition in June, we are sending the summer “charges” for our students summarized here with links and lists.

**Required** - All students should arrive on the first day of school with their completed mini-project assigned by grade level. These projects are a wonderful way for all students and their advisors to get to know one another more deeply, and the projects are meant to be easy to complete. If it is causing stress or feeling too complicated, it probably is--this should be enjoyable, simple, and fun!

**Required** - All students should arrive on the first day of school having read their required summer reading for their rising grade levels. 6th, 7th and 8th grade students are also required to complete a “one-pager” based on one of the books they choose. See below for the summer reading and the summer project instructions from English Department Chair Lori Macdonald.

5th Grade Summer Reading Project

6th Grade Summer Reading Project

7th Grade Summer Reading Project

8th Grade Summer Reading Project
Optional - Each year, we issue a summer “charge” to students with a mini contest. This year, Mr. Northrup has created a padlet where students can add interesting photos and notes about their summer adventures! We are encouraging students to share acts of kindness, stories shared by older members of their families, and books they have read, just to name a few things. There are always prizes in August based on participation! Click here to access the 5th/6th grade padlet and click here to access the 7th/8th grade padlet. Please note, both padlets require the password 23cougar24.

Because I love to read (I don’t know how to work my TV), I am hoping to inspire our students to continue with their reading throughout the summer. We have a wonderful culture of reading in our middle school, and I encourage families to stay engaged throughout the summer months. Students can make a copy of this log to record their summer reading. (Remember to share your log with Mrs. Moyer at cmoyer@cannonschool.org.) In August, participating students will be entered into a drawing for prizes!

Optional (from Athletics Department) - We are excited to offer several opportunities for workouts this summer. For more information about summer workouts, check out this flyer or this letter. Please email Shawn Powell with any questions.

At this time, all Middle School students, except for three-sport Cannon athletes, will be required to have a PE uniform. The deadline to order is Monday, July 24th. Please click here to place your PE Uniform order.

If you have any questions regarding school supplies, please visit the Back-to-School Center. Pre-ordering supplies for 5th and 6th grade is available through June 25th. As always, we will update you throughout the summer with various “need to know” items. The next letter typically comes in mid-July, so I’ll leave your inbox alone for a month or so!

Thank you, thank you, thank you, on behalf of our entire team,