



SAYRE SCHOOL

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Upper School

Summer of 2026

Summer Reading & Assignments & Early Start Classes

While summer vacation is a time to relax and enjoy a break from the daily routine of school, it is also important to stay academically engaged. Required summer reading and course assignments help strengthen your reading skills, help you prepare for the upcoming school year and generally help you stay mentally active during the break. Balancing fun and learning during the summer ensures that you return to campus ready to succeed. Please find your summer reading requirements, alphabetically by course, below.

In addition to the summer reading and assignments, some Sayre courses require an early start in August before the first day of school to prepare for the year. Below the Summer Reading and Assignments section, you will find your course(s) and the dates and times you will attend classes.

SUMMER READING & ASSIGNMENTS

AP Biology

Mr. Porter

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Please read *The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks* by Rebecca Skloot. Write up a one-page summary with your thoughts about the book (give specific details.) The assignment will be turned into blackbaud before the first day of class. We will have a short quiz on the content and the book the week we start class. I will send out an email with a digital copy of the book.

AP Calculus AB

Ms. Hering

jhering@sayreschool.org

Please complete the EVEN numbered problems in the following precalculus review packet: [AP Calculus AB summer precalc review.pdf](#). This will be taken up as a completion grade on the first day of class, but it is important that you understand the problems as the skills will be needed all year. Please show all work and simplify all answers.

AP Calculus BC

Ms. Hering

jhering@sayreschool.org

Please complete the following limit and continuity packet: [Limit and continuity review.pdf](#). This will count as a homework grade when we return, and we will have a quiz on the material the first week of class, so it is important to come prepared and with specific questions on the problems/concepts you struggled with. I would advise you to make use of your notes from last year's AB class. I am also linking a limits review guide to help you remember definitions, general rules, and techniques: [Limits Review Sheet.pdf](#). We will review questions from the packet on the first day of class, and the packet will be due on the second day of class.

AP Chemistry

Ms. Wright

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Your summer assignments are mostly review and done on Formative. Please carefully read the information on each of the Formatives (There are 6 which will open after school ends.). Since you will not have your book, in the Formatives, I've provided links for the book pages you need to complete each assignment. Printing the textbook pdfs to read is better for retention than reading on a screen (backed by research). Answers are provided in the Formatives, I will not be giving answers in class and will only address general questions. If you do these earlier in the summer, I recommend reviewing them before we meet.

All Formatives are due the first day of class, August 8th (see below). If you have questions about the problems, touch base with me as you work through them & before class begins. Hope you enjoy summer!!

English 9

Ms. Davis & Ms. Trammell

edavis@sayreschool.org & jtrammell@sayreschool.org

Students should read [The Alchemist](#) by Paulo Coelho. (The book is also available on Learning Ally). This classic novel follows the young protagonist Santiago as he goes on an epic quest that will help him discover his purpose in life. The people he meets, the obstacles he encounters, and the lessons he learns about himself and the world around him along the way prove just as valuable as the treasure he seeks. Santiago's journey sets the stage for our main theme in English 9, *Finding Your Voice*, and each of the books we'll read in the coming year will feature characters and narrators learning to use their voice to express themselves and help others.

English 10

Dr. O'Connor

loconnor@sayreschool.org

Students entering Grade 10 should read one of the works of speculative fiction listed below. Be sure to look up any words you don't understand so that you can fully enjoy your reading. Share your selection on this [Google form](#) by Monday, June 1.

If you listen to an audiobook or use an eReader, please also acquire a paperback copy so that you can engage in class activities without a device once classes begin.

[Our Missing Hearts](#) by Celeste Ng (2023)

In a world where the government regularly removes children from their parents and bans writing that threatens its power, 12-year-old Bird Gardner gets a surprise letter from his long-lost Chinese mother that launches him on a journey through libraries and oral folktales.

[The Midnight Library](#) by Matt Haig (2023)

Nora Seed gets the unexpected chance to see many possible lives she could have led when she visits the Midnight Library, where the infinite number of books contain infinite possibilities. Would any of the dreams she didn't pursue be better than the life she has?

[1984](#) by George Orwell (1949)

In the fictional future totalitarian state of Oceania, people have few freedoms and "Big Brother" is always watching. Propaganda prevails, screens monitor every move, and Winston Smith starts questioning things.

[Brave New World](#) by Aldous Huxley (1932)

In Huxley's famous dystopia, humans are genetically engineered and raised without parents, and the government provides drugs and entertainment to keep people content and peaceful. Bernard and Lenina gain a new perspective as they travel outside of this regime.

English 11

Ms. Trammell

jtrammell@sayreschool.org

You should read **[The Things They Carried](#) by Tim O'Brien**. (The book is also available on Learning Ally). *The Things They Carried*, published in 1990, chronicles the story of Jimmy Cross and his emotional and physical journey to the Vietnam War as a young man. Tim O'Brien explores the tangible and intangible "things" that soldiers carry into battle and into their later lives. Structured as a series of short stories, the work explores the psychological toll of warfare and its lasting impact on soldiers. A Pulitzer Prize finalist, the prose has been hailed as evocative and illuminating.

AP English Language & Composition

Dr. O'Connor

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Students entering AP English Language & Composition should read **one** of the [memoirs](#) below. Share your selection on this [Google form](#) by Monday, June 1. As you read, identify two specific passages from the memoir of 0-2 pages each that feel particularly impactful to you.

You will begin the fall semester discussing the memoir's rhetorical choices, which are the deliberate, intentional decisions a writer makes in order to convey their message to their audience. Rhetorical choices are **how** a writer communicates, not the content of their writing. Keep your eyes and mind on this new concept as you read and annotate, and we'll dive into [rhetorical analysis](#) in August.

[Just Mercy](#) by Bryan Stevenson (2015)

Harvard Law grad and founder of the Equal Justice Initiative Bryan Stephenson tells his story of defending an Alabama man falsely-accused and convicted of murder and then founding an organization to expand that work around the South. This book inspired a 2019 film.

[Educated](#) by Tara Westover (2018)

Westover recounts her childhood as part of an extremist Mormon sect in a family that avoided contact with most of American society, including medicine and organized education. She reflects on education in the broadest sense– not just what we learn in school but what we learn in everyday life.

[Know My Name](#) by Chanel Miller (2019)

The powerful and well-written memoir of the woman who survived Brock Turner's sexual assault outside a fraternity party at Stanford University in 2015. It chronicles the experience and its long, complex legal and personal aftermath.

English 12

2026-27 Teacher to be determined - contact Dr. O'Connor for any questions.

You should read [The Shell Collector](#) by **Anthony Doerr**. (The audiobook is available at Audible and [Audiobooks.com](#)). *The Shell Collector* is a collection of 21st century short stories driven by luminous prose and a sense of wonder about the natural world and other people's lives. A guide with reading questions will be emailed in early June.

AP English Literature & Composition

Ms. Davis (edavis@sayreschool.org)

You should read [Station Eleven](#) by **Emily St. John Mandel**.

Before and after the deadliest pandemic the world has ever faced, the characters of *Station Eleven* navigate Hollywood parties, battle post-apocalyptic wastelands, fall in love, deal with loss, delve into their pasts, and follow their imaginations—all while discovering what unites us, what divides us, and what makes us human. A study guide to assist your comprehension of the novel will be emailed by mid-June.

AP Environmental Science

Mrs. Wheeler

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Our summer reading assignment is *The Omnivore's Dilemma* by Michael Pollan. Here's a [link](#) to the information you'll need to know in this book. We'll take an assessment within the first two weeks of school over that information. Take notes in a [composition book](#) as you read (use those questions on the link as a guide) and the notes you take can be used when you take the assessment. This composition book (**please use one with bound pages and no rings**) will also be used during the school year for your field notebook.

AP French/French V Honors

Mr. Turner

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Our summer reading is the graphic novel [Banana Girl](#) by Kei Lam (please purchase a physical copy). As you reach the end of each part, write a summary (in French) of the events that happened - this should be working with the two past tenses (*passé composé* & *imparfait*). Each of these summaries should be about 3 paragraphs in length and should be **handwritten**. Consider things such as the main idea from the text, how it relates to one of the [AP Themes](#), and what comparisons you might make with our own society. Shortly after the school year begins, there will be a comprehension assessment as well as a larger written composition. Clear evidence of unauthorized translation or other generative content resources will result in an automatic zero.

Honors Precalculus

Ms. Hering

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Please complete the EVEN numbered problems in the following packet of Algebra II review and important skills necessary for Honors Precalculus: [HPC summer packet.pdf](#). This will be taken up as a grade the first day of class. Please show all your work and simplify all your answers.

AP Psychology

Dr. Calzini

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Your [summer assignment for AP Psychology](#) is to introduce you to the *Science Practices and Skills* that are central to the study and practice of psychology (affectionately known as *Unit Zero*). There are nine modules that contain a video and presentation slides that guide you on specific content and analytical skills. Each module is paired with a short assignment to reinforce the information presented. The total amount of time you should expect to complete all modules is 6-8 hrs and it is recommended you do this close to the start of the school year. If you have any questions please contact me. (see below for optional review session on August 8).

AP Spanish Language & Culture

Ms. Martinez

ymartinez@sayreschool.org

Your [summer assignments](#) have been selected to continue the development of more advanced communication skills. You'll engage in oral activities, listening tasks, writing exercises, and reading. Additionally, there is a grammar/vocabulary packet (link attached in the summer assignment) to work on, which will help you become familiar with new words and false cognates, expand your vocabulary, and avoid common mistakes. All assignments are due on the first day of school. If you have any questions, please contact me.

AP U.S. Government and Politics

Your [Summer Assignment](#) will be to acquire and read *Why We're Polarized* by Ezra Klein, a compelling analysis of how American politics has become increasingly shaped by identity, media, and institutional feedback loops. Klein explains the forces behind political division in the U.S. and how partisan identity has merged with race, religion, geography, and ideology in ways that impact national unity and governance. You must complete two assignments: (1) a 750-word minimum reflection paper (due on the first day of class) exploring a major theme from the book and evaluating Klein's argument, and (2) a quiz on the book's key terms and main ideas during the first or second week of school.

AP U.S. History

Dr. Pergande

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In AP US History, we'll cover 9 historical periods, from pre-Columbian Native Societies and European Exploration from the 15th century to the divisive political, social, and economic challenges of the last 20th and early 21st century. Because of the broad content, we often have to rush through the last 50 years of American History. So this summer, we're starting with the end - Period 9, 1980 to the Present. Your [summer assignment](#) is to read two chapters (29 and 30) from [The American Yawp: A Massively Collaborative Open US History Textbook](#), published online by Stanford University Press. You'll take notes, define key vocabulary/themes, and prepare to discuss the questions on the handout when we meet in August.

EARLY START CLASSES

AP Chemistry

- **August 8th** 12:30pm-3:30pm. **LAB** done this day.
- **August 13th** 12:30-3:00pm

AP Environmental Science

- **August 5th** 8:30am - 3:30pm: [Elmwood Stock Farm](#) (they incorporate many of the ideas in the book you will have read) and [Food Chain](#). There will also be a **quiz** over experimental design and some important math skills you'll need for the course, including dimensional analysis, calculating percentages, and scientific notation. This gives me a baseline of how much practice is needed to get everyone proficient with these skills. You'll have the opportunity to retake the quiz after some more practice if you don't do well the first time but **the final retake will serve as your first quiz in the gradebook**. I'll send out suggestions for brushing up on skills in an email. You'll need comfortable clothes for walking around on the farm (maybe a hat and sunscreen, too), a pencil for taking notes, and money for lunch.

- **August 6th** 8:30am - 3:30pm: Tour of Lexington Recycling Center and [Rumpke Landfill](#) (in the Cincinnati area). Wear closed toed shoes for the tours, bring a pencil to take notes as well as money for lunch.

AP Psychology

- **August 7** 2:30 - 3:30: Unit Zero Review. This is an *optional* open review session to go over questions you may have regarding the Unit Zero content and the summer assignments. There will also be a practice AP Psychology MCQ quiz in preparation for your first quiz of the year.