Dear Future Students from the Class of 2025:

Happy Summer, and welcome to Grade 7 ELA! We hope that you had a positive transition into the middle school this past year as a sixth grader, and hope you are excited for what is to come in your next chapter as a seventh grader.

Summer vacation is a time to rest, rejuvenate and have some fun with friends and family. It is important to make the most of the time you have in these short summer months. With this in mind, we designed the ELA summer activities to be engaging, enjoyable and rewarding for all students, and hopefully participating in these activities will feel like time well spent. Grade 7 students will have two activities to complete this summer - one reading activity, and one writing activity.

Please carefully read through the enclosed directions to familiarize yourself with the activities, related links and resources. Please be aware that completing these activities thoughtfully and completely will allow your grade 7 experience to start off on a high note! All work is due the first week of school. If you have questions over the summer, please do not hesitate to contact either of us through e-mail.

Happy reading!

Warmly,
Grade 7 ELA Teachers

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Activity #1 - Read & Blog

Grade 7 Summer Reading Goals:
- Spark a love for reading and to build a community of motivated and independent readers, by empowering students to immerse themselves in a summer reading book(s) of their choice based on each individual’s unique interests.
- Experience the social component of reading by engaging in online discussion(s) by posting to our grade 7 blog.
- Inspire students to arrive in September eager to continue reading and talking about books!

Reading and Blogging Directions:

1. Use the attached lists to help you choose a book that is interesting to you. Tip: Get a copy of the book as early in the summer as possible!
   The book that you choose should be one that you have not read before and one that is an appropriate level of challenge (not too easy, but not too hard).
   Specifics:
   - Grade 7: Students must read at least one (1) book.
   - Grade 7 Accelerated: Students must read at least two (2) books.
   *Although there is a minimum requirement, students are encouraged to read as much as they can!

2. BEFORE READING: Respond to the following prompt on the grade 7 blog:

   Which book did you choose? What is the title and genre? Who is the author? Describe the reasons why you selected that book. What was it about the book that interested you?

3. Read and enjoy your book!!!
   Tips:
   - Find a time or a place that makes reading your book really enjoyable for you.
   - If you listen to the audiobook, be sure to follow along with the book in front of you.
   - You may find reading your book even more enjoyable if you find someone to read the same book as you; you may want to ask a family member or a friend to be book buddies :).

4. AFTER READING: After you have read the book, respond to the following prompt on the grade 7 blog:

   Choose a part of the book - the characters, the conflict(s), the theme(s) or the book as a whole - to discuss in a well developed blog post.
   - What word would you use to describe this part of the book, and why?
   - How did this part of the book make you feel? What was your reaction(s) to this part of the book?
   - What did this part of the book make you think of?
     - What connections can you make to this part of the book?
   - What life lesson might someone learn through this element of the book?
   - How might you rate, or grade, this part of the book? Why? Be specific.
Activity #1 - Read & Blog

RESOURCES

★ Book Lists - Extra Resources
Best Fiction for Young Adults
Young Adult Book Finder Database
Bookopolis Grade 7 Summer Reading Top Pics
Quick Picks for Reluctant Young Adult Readers

★ Link to Blog
www.cmssummerblog.weebly.com

★ Blogging Responsibly - Digital Citizenship Reminder

- It is expected that students will contribute to our blog respectfully and responsibly. Using the blog for any purpose, other than summer reading activities, will NOT be tolerated. Your teachers will be monitoring your posts, and you will not receive credit for your work if you use the blog inappropriately.

- Please watch the Netiquette videos on our blog to refresh your understanding of appropriate and respectful communication online.
Activity #2 - Write a Letter to Your Teacher!

The goals of the Grade 7 summer writing activity are...
- To get to know a little bit about each individual student - his/her interests, goals, hopes, etc. - as early as possible!
- To give each student the opportunity to share his/her learning preferences, and/or anything else, that would be helpful for us to know in trying to create a positive experience in ELA!

Letter to your Teacher - Directions

1. **YOUR GOAL**: Provide important, relevant and unique information about yourself to help your teacher get to know who you are as an individual.

2. **AUDIENCE**: The ONLY person who will read your letter is your grade 7 ELA teacher (either Mrs. Duggan or Mrs. Stephens).

3. **FORMAT**: You will write a letter using the friendly letter format. Your letter can be typed and printed, or neatly handwritten.

4. **CONTENT**: To help us to get an idea of who you are, both in and out of school, your letter should include your responses to the following:
   - **Introduce Yourself!** - What makes you *you*? Tell about your interests, family, favorite activities, fun or memorable experiences from this summer, or share some fun facts about yourself.
   - **Previous Experiences** - Describe something about a previous English class that you *liked or enjoyed*. Explain what you liked about the experience.
   - **Your Feelings on Reading & Writing** - How do you feel about reading and writing? What type of books do you most enjoy? Why? What style of writing do you most enjoy? Why? If reading or writing has not been enjoyable to you yet, describe why.
   - **Learning Preferences** - How do you think you learn best? *Think about the types of learning experiences that have been most beneficial to you.*
   - **A Goal and a Hope for English** - What is a goal you would like to accomplish in English this year? What is an area of reading or writing that you would like to improve upon? What do you hope English will be like this year?

5. **OPTIONAL**
   - Personalize your letter with stickers or decorations.
   - Include a picture from an experience you had this summer
   - You can choose to go old school and MAIL your letter! Send your letter to:
     
     **Cohasset Middle High School attn: Mrs. Duggan and Mrs. Stephens**
     
     143 Pond Street
     
     **Cohasset, MA 02025**
Rubric

To earn full credit for your efforts to complete the summer activities, please be aware of the following:

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Expectations</th>
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| **Blog Post #1**              | - Provide a thoughtful overview to explain what made you choose the book.  
                                | - Should be written using at least 5 complete sentences.  
                                | - Follow capitalization, punctuation and spelling rules.                                                                                   |
| Explain why you chose your book. |                                                                                                                                          |
| **Blog Post #2**              | - Your post should demonstrate that you read the book.                                                                                     |
| Discuss your summer reading book. | - Post is made up of relevant comments that are based on the suggested prompts illustrated through the assignment sheet.  
                                | - Your post should include specific examples from the book to fully explain your thoughts.                                                    |
|                               | - Should be written using at least 8 complete sentences.                                                                                   |
|                               | - Follow capitalization, punctuation and spelling rules.                                                                                   |
| **Letter to Your Teacher**    | - Fully address each question as outlined in the instructions  
                                | - Follow capitalization, punctuation and spelling rules                                                                                   |
|                               | - Demonstrate your best effort                                                                                                             |
Alternative to the Blog

If you would prefer that your child not participate in the blog activity, please review the following information, and sign and return this form to your child’s grade 6 English teacher before the end of the school year. Please note that your child will not lose any points or credit for not using the blog.

Alternative Blog Directions: Instead of responding to the prompts on the blog, please write your responses in a Google Doc or on a separate piece of paper. Bring your Doc or handwritten response to school within the first week of school to get credit for your work. As a reminder, prompts are below:

- **Response #1 - Before Reading:** Which book did you choose? What is the title and genre? Who is the author? Describe the reasons why you selected that book. What was it about the book that interested you?

- **Response #2 - After Reading:** Choose a part of the book - the characters, the conflict(s), the theme(s) or the book as a whole - to discuss in a well developed blog post.
  - What word would you use to describe this part of the book, and why?
  - How did this part of the book make you feel? What was your reaction(s) to this part of the book?
  - What did this part of the book make you think of?
    - What connections can you make to this part of the book?
  - What life lesson might someone learn through this element of the book?
  - How might you rate, or grade, this part of the book? Why? Be specific.

Keep the top half for your reference!

Detach the bottom of this page and return to your English teacher!

Student Name: ________________________________

- I have reviewed and understand the alternative to the blog directions (above).
- My child will be completing his/her summer reading activity on a Google Doc or separate page **instead** of the blog.

Parent Signature: ________________________________ Date: ________________________________