June 10, 2020

Dear Parents and Guardians,

If you are new to Crefeld, we welcome you to the Middle School!

Summer is here, and there is no better time to read a book! Please have your child read the required reading. This year, all students are required to read Monster by Walter Dean Myers. Students are expected to annotate the book. The directions are below, as well as a description of the book. We are also asking students to react to primary/secondary sources for history. Directions are in the packet.

This year's theme is “Community.” As you read Monster and respond to the primary/secondary sources, think about how this theme relates to them.

**Monster by Walter Dean Myers Description**

Steve Harmon, 16, is accused of serving as a lookout for a robbery of a Harlem drugstore. The owner was shot and killed, and now Steve is in prison awaiting trial for murder. From there, he tells about his case and his incarceration. Many elements of this story are familiar, but Myers keeps it fresh and alive by telling it from an unusual perspective. Steve, an amateur filmmaker, recounts his experiences in the form of a movie screenplay. His striking scene-by-scene narrative of how his life has dramatically changed is riveting. Interspersed within the script are diary entries in which the teen vividly describes the nightmarish conditions of his confinement . . . Steve searches deep within his soul to prove to himself that he is not the "monster" the prosecutor presented him to the jury. Ultimately, he reconnects with his humanity and regains a moral awareness that he had lost. . . . Monster will challenge readers with difficult questions, to which there are no definitive answers. . . . *(Source: Edward Sullivan, New York Public Library)*

Sincerely,

Middle School Teachers

Any questions, reach out to Nicole Greaves at ngreaves@crefeld.org
How to Interact with the Text

• Circle new characters.

• Underline moments you find interesting or important in the story. A few items per chapter is a good guideline.

• At the end of a chapter, write 2-3 bullet points of important plot points that occurred in that chapter.

• This skill is called annotating and it is something you will be doing more of this year. It helps you remember the book and will be used to start conversations about the book when you return.