Dear MLK Families,

On behalf of the English department, I would like to express our sincere hope that you are healthy and safe. Literature teaches us many lessons about the human spirit in the midst of adversity: the appreciation for joy, beauty, creativity, silence, and, above all, the power of our connections to and responsibilities for each other. In preparing reviews for my Advanced Placement English Language and Composition students, I recently rediscovered a line from a Puritan sermon: “We must delight in each other; make others’ conditions our own; rejoice together, mourn together, labor and suffer together, always having before our eyes our commission and community in the work, as members of the same body.”

Though school is not in session and will remain closed for the remainder of this school year, teachers are looking ahead to the new school year with hope and optimism. You will find below the summer reading titles for the 2020-2021 school year.

7th Grade
Refugee by Alan Gratz
The Giver by Lois Lowry

8th Grade
Children of Blood and Bone by Tomi Adeyemi
The Outsiders by S. E. Hinton

9th Grade
Speak by Laurie Halse Anderson
The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian by Sherman Alexie

10th Grade
Ready Player One by Ernest Cline
The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time by Mark Haddon

11th Grade (including both English III Honors and Advanced Placement English Language and Composition*)
Death of a Salesman by Arthur Miller
Fences by August Wilson

12th Grade (including both English IV Honors and Advanced Placement English Literature and Composition*)
Things Fall Apart by Chinua Achebe
The House on Mango Street by Sandra Cisneros
*Students enrolled in Advanced Placement English Language and Composition and Advanced Placement English Literature and Composition may have additional work to complete.

Guidelines to accompany the summer reading at grade level will be available on or by 5/1/20. We will provide multiple ways to access the guidelines, including via email, the school’s website, and Schoology.

**MLK English Department Summer Reading Policy**

Summer reading serves a number of purposes. First, summer reading is diagnostic. It provides teachers a means of assessing students’ critical thinking, reading comprehension, and writing skills. Next, summer reading is academic. It keeps students academically engaged over the summer, and it sets a tone for the level of rigor students should expect in any English class in the coming year. Last, and perhaps most important, summer reading is communal. It provides students a vehicle for cultural literacy, choice, and personal growth and independence of thought.

**MLK English Department Alternate Selection Policy**

Should a parent wish for his or her child not to read a chosen literary selection, he or she should contact the child’s English teacher prior to the beginning of the unit of study for an appropriate alternative text designated by the English department. (In the case of summer reading, parents should contact the appropriate teacher before school begins in August.)