

June 2023

Dear Students, Parents, and Guardians,

Congratulations on completing 6th grade! I'm very excited to keep learning together in 7th grade!

Throughout this much-deserved break from school, students will be required to complete summer reading in order to maintain and improve the critical literacy skills they've worked so hard to develop throughout the seventh grade school year. While we know and understand that summer is busy, we also know that studies show that the more engaged students are in reading, the less likely they are to suffer from learning loss while improving their verbal and written reasoning.

This summer, rising seventh graders will be required to read two graphic novels:

1. **The graphic novel adaptation of *The Diary of Anne Frank* illustrated by David Polonsky and adapted by Ari Folman.** | From Amazon: "A timeless story rediscovered by each new generation, *The Diary of a Young Girl* stands without peer. This graphic edition remains faithful to the original, while the stunning illustrations interpret and add layers of visual meaning and immediacy to this classic work of Holocaust literature. For both young readers and adults *The Diary* continues to capture the remarkable spirit of Anne Frank, who for a time survived the worst horror the modern world has seen—and who remained triumphantly and heartbreakingly human throughout her ordeal. Includes extensive quotations directly from the definitive edition; adapted by Ari Folman, illustrated by David Polonsky, and authorized by the Anne Frank Foundation in Basel."
2. ***They Called Us Enemy* by George Takei** | From Amazon: George Takei has captured hearts and minds worldwide with his captivating stage presence and outspoken commitment to equal rights. But long before he braved new frontiers in *Star Trek*, he woke up as a four-year-old boy to find his own birth country at war with his father's—and their entire family forced from their home into an uncertain future. In a stunning graphic memoir, Takei revisits his haunting childhood in American concentration camps, as one of over 100,000 Japanese Americans imprisoned by the U.S. government during World War II. Experience the forces that shaped an American icon—and America itself—in this gripping tale of courage, country, loyalty, and love.

There is no project; however, there will be a brief quiz when we get back to school; the exact date is TBD, **but it will be within the first week.** The quiz will include short passages and the associated images and will require students to analyze those passages. After the quiz, we will work on a small project.

Happy reading,  
Ms. Henkin