

Dear Parents and Students,

Summer is a great time for reading! Our summer reading assignments are meant to encourage our students' love of reading over the summer break and to prepare them for our areas of academic focus this fall. The required reading selection will be an important part of our integrated curriculum this coming year, particularly as we renew our commitment to educating our students on appreciating and respecting the experiences of people from diverse backgrounds, cultures, and ethnicities. All summer reading assignments must be completed by the first day of school. Students will need to have copies of their required reading books in class beginning the first day.

Upper Elementary students are required to read a total of two books over the summer.

All UE students are required to read:

Black Heroes: A Black History Book for Kids: 51 Inspiring People from Ancient Africa to Modern-Day U.S.A. by Arlisha Norwood

This will be the first book we discuss together at the beginning of the school year. **There is no independent project to be completed for this book.** Work will be done in class once school starts. All students are required to have a copy of this book at school.

The second book required for summer reading is the student's choice and should not be a book he or she has previously read. There are many excellent children's books available, including the titles recommended at the link below. This website is just one resource for discovering great books for kids of all ages.

<https://www.readbrightly.com/ages-stages/tween/>

***Each student will need to create a project for the book he or she chooses independently (NOT for the class book *Black Heroes*).** The project should tell the class all the important details about the book your student read (title, author, genre, characters, setting, plot). **All projects must be labeled with the book's title and author.** Students may choose a project idea from the list included or create their own idea! Have fun and be creative!

Have a wonderful summer and happy reading!