

Dear Members of the Class of 2030,

Welcome to Central Catholic High School! As the English Department Chair, it's my privilege to introduce you to our summer reading and writing program.

Research done at Harvard University by James Kim, Professor of Education, shows that reading only four or five books over the summer helps to prevent the summer slump. Students who don't read much over the summer show a decline in reading performance from the end of one year to the start of the next (TextProject Topics: Summer Reading). As you know, college admissions factors in standardized tests, and the SAT and ACT assess reading comprehension skills. In addition, our graduates tell us that most of their college homework consists of reading! We want our students to be good readers, detailed writers, and critical thinkers. That is why the CCHS summer reading and writing program is in place.

The English Department also believes that the assigned summer reading unites the class and sets the tone for our first discussion. The 9th-grade reading selection is *I Am Malala: How One Girl Stood Up for Education and Changed the World, **Young Readers Edition*** by Malala Yousafzai, with Patricia McCormick (*please be sure to get the young readers edition!*). Malala Yousafzai has changed the world through her courage, even though she is very young. We will explore her story and what makes her a young hero. Please come to class on the first day with complete knowledge of the text and be prepared to delve into the work.

One of the first assignments we will have at the beginning of the year is for you to compose an essay of at least 500 words that analyzes the text, so pay attention and mark things in it that interest you.

On the first day of class, please have your copy of *I Am Malala* with you. Also, please have your laptop or other approved device ready so that we can begin setting up the online portion of our class.

If you have any questions, please email Trevor Guina at guina@cchsca.org

Cordially,

Mr. Guina and the CCHS English Department