Dear soon-to-be 7th graders,

You may have some questions about what 7th grade will be like and I am hopeful this will be helpful to you as we all prepare for the 2017-18 school year. First of all, we will be learning about our history as Americans from the creation of our country up through the Vietnam conflict. Many of the books we will be reading as a class will focus on events and people in our history as well. You will also be asked to read independent books during the year as part of my Independent Reading Assignment. My goal is to help you find a genre or author you love, if you haven’t yet discovered this. We will also be researching and writing about or presenting on several topics each quarter.

During the summer you are being asked to read my 7th grade book selection of *Ghost* by Jason Reynolds. Once you finish this novel, I am asking that you create a new book cover (even if you are not artistic this will hopefully be a fun activity) as well as compose a paragraph that describes your new cover. In addition, you will read at least two other books, one of which will be your selection from the Middle School Book Club. Ideally I would love for you to read several more books during the summer and those you can keep track of in a journal or log. The last piece of reading homework for the summer is to find at least three other books you’d like to read as independent books during the year. I am excited to learn and share about all of the books that we, as a class, will have read during the summer when we begin 7th grade in late August. I also strongly encourage you to read newspapers or magazines in your spare time and know what is happening in the world!

I am also asking you to write me two letters during the summer. Yes, they are to encourage you to practice writing, but more importantly, they are also a way for me to get to know you a bit better. You may handwrite or type your letters.

I am looking forward to hearing from you over the summer and am excited to work with you this coming school year as your HGP teacher! If you have any questions at all, please feel free to email me at klanders@bancroftschool.org.

Sincerely,

Ms. Landers
Each letter must include: (see example above)

★ The date, fully written out (ex. June 24, 2017)
★ A greeting (Dear Ms. Landers,)
★ At least one paragraph (9+ sentences)
★ A formal sign-off (ex. Sincerely, ....)

Letter 1: Who are you?

The purpose of your first letter is to tell me a bit about yourself. Help me get to know you! You may use the following questions to guide you, or you may write about something entirely different.

● What do you love to do outside of school?
● What makes you happy?
● What upsets you?
● How might your friends describe you?
● What do you find enjoyable/unenjoyable in school?
● If you were an animal, what would you be? Why?
● Do you have any specific goals for 7th grade? What are they?
● Are you anxious or worried about 7th grade? Why?

Letter 2: A moment from your summer

The purpose of your second letter is to tell me about a moment that you’ve experienced this summer. Maybe it’s a funny story from camp, a terrible day on vacation, an eye-opening experience at home... whatever stands out to you. Tell me about this moment in detail, with the goal of describing and entertaining.

When you have completed both letters, put them in the addressed envelope I provided to you and get them to the mailbox before school starts!
Reading Assignment:

Ghost

❖ Create a new cover
❖ Type a paragraph about the new cover that explains why you chose to depict the novel in this new way - this will be printed out and submitted the first day of school and is the first grade for English in my book so do your very best!

Middle School Book Club selection:
❖ I strongly encourage chapter summaries of 2-3 bullet points after reading each chapter - this can be written in the books or on post its if you are borrowing the book.
❖ Must have: 3 typed reactions to something you read about in the novel. Each reaction should be at least 5 sentences. Possible prompts:
  ■ I was shocked when.....
  ■ It was surprising when....
  ■ When the character ____________ did _________ it make me feel.......
  ■ I was frightened when...
  ■ I couldn’t believe when ____________ happened because...
  ■ It was frustrating when...
  ■ etc.

Third book of choice:
❖ I strongly encourage chapter summaries of 2-3 bullet points after reading each chapter - this can be written in the books or on post its if you are borrowing the book.

The point of reading is not to complete an assignment but to learn more about yourself and life in the process. Ideally, we will be able to share what we learned, what we disliked, and what we loved as a class.

It is books that are the key to the wide world; if you can’t do anything else, read all that you can. —Jane Hamilton
# Summer Reading Log

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**Parent Signature:** ____________________________
My booklist for the coming year….

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Read! Read! Read!

As Nelson Mandela once said, “Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world.”