



May 24, 2021

Dear Families of Rising Sixth Graders:

On Monday May 24th, I visited with the rising 6th grade class to spend a few friendly moments providing a very brief overview of 6th grade, and specifically to reveal their summer reading assignment. During our time together, I discussed the generalities of this letter with them. Each student received a hard copy of all three pages.

**REQUIRED READING:**

***Wonder* by R.J. Palacio (2012).** Students are assigned this contemporary fiction novel, to be read in full for the first day of school. Students are responsible for obtaining their own copy of the novel. A digital version can be found [here](#). An audio version can be found [here](#). As *Wonder* will be the source of our initial language arts studies and our introduction to the 6th grade stewardship focus of disabilities, I encourage students to read *Wonder* reasonably close to the beginning of the school year. Unit activities will include important discussion, real-world applications, interactive research, writing activities, a reading comprehension assessment, and class initiatives central to the start of middle school. The unit will culminate with a viewing of the 2017 feature film starring Julia Roberts, Owen Wilson, and Jacob Tremblay.

**\*\*\*There is no additional, required reading for this summer. We all need a brain break, and kids need to be kids!\*\*\***

**REQUIRED WRITING**

**A writing assignment will accompany *Wonder* and will be due August 16th, the first Monday following the start of school. Students may handwrite or type and print the assignment. This assignment is detailed on the next page.**

**BONUS!**

**Students who read additional grade-level novels, beyond the assigned reading, will receive one literature bonus point per novel, up to a max of five bonus points.** Parent signatures on the attached form will verify these additional books. Students should bring this form with them on the first day of school. We all need a mental break over the summer, so there is no pressure to start reading anything right away, or to read any additional books at all; the bonus points are just a small incentive for those who feel inclined!

I am thrilled to have the opportunity to teach this class, and I look forward to the adventure that awaits us in August. It will be epic (and hopefully normal)! In the meantime, please feel free to reach out any time.

In Christ,

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Enclosure:  
*Summer Writing Assignment*  
*Bonus Book Tracker*



## Summer Writing Assignment

This writing assignment primarily provides me with a baseline for the student's ability to integrate the *Six Traits of Writing* (*ideas, organization, word choice, voice, fluency, and conventions*) to which our middle school writing curriculum closely adheres. Students will receive completion credit to jumpstart their grade book. **Please respond to the following prompt.**

*The novel Wonder by R.J. Palacio shares and explores many life lessons, some you may feel are more interesting or more important than others. In a three-four paragraph response (4-6 sentences each):*

- 1)** *Describe the life lesson from the novel that you believe is most interesting or most important, and why you believe this.*
- 2)** *Explain which character teaches us the most about this lesson. Provide an example from the book that supports this.*
- 3)** *Discuss how you think this particular lesson might apply to 6th grade and middle school at Christ the King.*

### General Guidance:

- Writing pieces may be typed or hand-written; please make handwriting legible! Please use a traditional typeface (Times New Roman, Arial, Calibri, etc). Please, no tiny lettering, crazy fonts, or bright colors!
- Though graded purely on completion, because it is a baseline composition, writing should be the students' best efforts to use learned composition, spelling, punctuation, general grammar, and literary skills and concepts.
- All writing pieces should be at least three paragraphs of 4-6 sentences each, which will compel and allow for a reasonable demonstration and evaluation of critical thinking, composition elements, and creativity. Students wishing to write more are encouraged to do so.
- Students should attempt to address all pieces of the prompt; use the numbers 1-3 in the prompt to guide paragraph structure.



## SUMMER READING BONUS NOVEL TRACKER

Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_

1. Novel Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Author: \_\_\_\_\_

Approx. Date Completed: \_\_\_\_\_

2. Novel Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Author: \_\_\_\_\_

Approx. Date Completed: \_\_\_\_\_

3. Novel Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Author: \_\_\_\_\_

Approx. Date Completed: \_\_\_\_\_

4. Novel Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Author: \_\_\_\_\_

Approx. Date Completed: \_\_\_\_\_

5. Novel Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Author: \_\_\_\_\_

Approx. Date Completed: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent Signature