

# HAPPY SUMMER!

## ENGLISH and Literature in Spring 2017

### MS. Potter

“One benefit of summer is that each day we had more light to read by.”  
- Jeanette Walls, *The Glass Castle*



**AFTER A LONG YEAR OF HARD WORK AND LOTS OF FUN, IT'S TIME FOR SUMMER!**

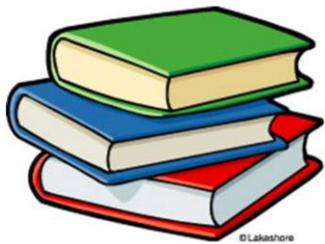
Next year will be a new and exciting one for middle school students, as we'll be getting new English and literature programs to accommodate our new Google Chromebooks. I'm already very excited for what we have in store! See below for some important and interesting upcoming items of note.

### 1. Summer Reading

While summer is definitely a time for relaxation and fun, it's also a time to get ready for the year to come. Our summer reading assignments are never too strenuous, however, and this year our reading will also help with our spelling bee prep, too!

The National Spelling Bee has released a Great Words, Great Works list which serves as the basis for word selection for next year's bee, so the only reading assignment over the summer is to choose one of those books from your class level (or above for a challenge!) and be ready to test on it in the first week of school. Find the list here:

[http://spellingbee.com/sites/default/files/inline-files/009\\_Full\\_Great\\_Words\\_Great\\_Works\\_List\\_2018.pdf](http://spellingbee.com/sites/default/files/inline-files/009_Full_Great_Words_Great_Works_List_2018.pdf)

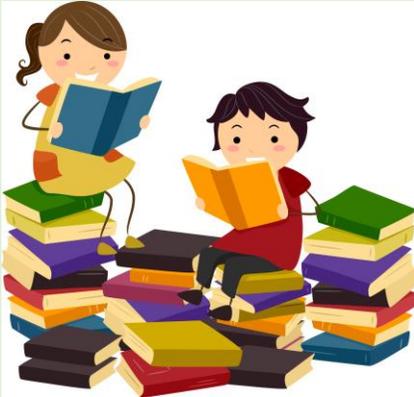


### 2. Grammar Police

Although grammar police often get a bad rap, I'm so excited by the enthusiasm our middle school students have shown for their new department. On June 9, the 6<sup>th</sup> grade deputies took their oath and received their badges to be grammar deputies next year. These appointments were by application only, and they serve to help their classmates "to style and correct" their writing! The seventh grade and other sixth grade students expressed interest in joining as well, so stay tuned for continuing developments in St. Peter's newest grammar enforcement agency.



## 3. National Book Festival



Last year on Saturday, September 24, dozens of the nation's best authors gathered at the Washington Convention Center for the National Book Festival. Along with all of those authors, more than half of the St. Peter's middle school made the trek up to D.C. on the weekend to experience all of the literary fun, meet some of their favorite authors, and discover some new reading books. I was so proud of and impressed by all of our students who made reading such a top priority!

This year, the 17<sup>th</sup> NBF takes place just before we return to school on Saturday, September 2. I'm still hoping to see lots of SPS families there again, and remember – it's an extra credit opportunity!

<https://www.loc.gov/bookfest/>

## 4. Writing Progress

With the increased possibilities of the Chromebooks next year, the middle school students will have the opportunity to do even more writing practice than they already are! They will also afford them greater collaborative writing experiences and feedback.

Already, the students' writing portfolios are jammed with papers – persuasive essays, resumes, creative short stories, posters, pamphlets, social media feeds, expository essays, personal reflections, political cartoons, book reviews, and so much more. Next year we'll also be continuing part 2 of our letter-writing campaign to benefit the Make-A-Wish Foundation as we continue to perfect our writing skills.



## 5. 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Memories



Gus and David paddleboating on the house trip!



Spreading out to write short stories!



Fun at the Library of Congress

## 6. 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Memories



Above left, the students learn to bachata like the characters in their book. Above middle, the students act out “Casey at the Bat.” Above right, students take turns playing each other’s board games based on books. Right, students at their 20<sup>th</sup> high school reunion at the culmination of their research project.

## 7. 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Memories



At the Capitol Building



Campaigning for Julius Caesar

### About Me:

My name is Haley Potter, and this is my fourth year teaching at St. Peter’s. I am also a graduate of St. Peter’s, so it is a great experience to be back as a teacher! I attended Villanova University and graduated with degrees in English and Honors, as well as a concentration in writing and rhetoric and minors in Spanish, sociology, and gender and women’s studies. I also just graduated with my master’s degree in leadership in teaching. I love to read, and both creative and informative writing have always been passions, so I’m very happy to be able to share those interests with my students!

