

June 13, 2018

Greetings Humanities Academy Students and Families,

Your adventures in middle school are about to begin! We're thrilled to have you as a part of our Academy. We are the Humanities Academy teachers: Ms. Siminski, Ms. Esterman, Ms. Holbrook, and Ms. Mansfield. You can expect homework regularly and a year of hard work, creative projects, and thought-provoking discussions.

In addition to the letter you are writing for us (see directions below), please **pick at least two books** from Reed's 2018-2019 [Battle of the Books](#) list to read and come to school ready to discuss your books. This list encompasses a wide variety of genres and reading levels. [Battle of the Books](#) is a reading incentive competition where teams answer questions in a family feud type competition. Students consistently rave about the fun they have during this event. Summer is a great time to get a head start on the competition, which takes place in Spring 2019. The Humanities Academy always does very well at this competition! Also, don't forget to look for the math in everyday life!

We've also posted our required supply list (see below) for those of you who want to shop early, directions for the letter, and requested supplies. Whew!

We look forward to getting to know each of you next year. Here are some fun tidbits about us!

Who's who?

- One of us is going camping at the beach; one of us is going across the country
- One of us has three small pets; one of us has two 1 ton animals
- One of us sang in a gospel choir at the House of Blues and for the Pope; one of us was a theater actress
- Two of us drive less than 5 miles to school; one of us drives 45 miles to school
- One of us has an English Literature degree; one in theater and two in psychology
- We all love to dance!

Hope to see you at the beach or Orientation,

Ms. Siminski, Ms. Esterman, Ms. Holbrook, and Ms. Mansfield

Summer Assignment for Incoming 6th Graders

A Letter to Ms. Siminski and Ms. Esterman

Over the summer, please write us a letter introducing yourself. This will be a way for us to get to know you and give us a writing sample.

A friendly letter contains:

- The date
- A salutation, i.e. Dear Ms. Esterman and Ms. Siminski,
- The body of the letter written in first person, paragraphs with appropriate spacing and indentions
- A conclusion
- A closing, i.e. Sincerely, Your name

In the body of the letter, please address some of the following topics:

- Family
- Pets
- Hobbies
- Goals for the future

- Favorite/Least favorite subjects and why
- Friends
- Books
- Movies/TV shows
- Sports/Activities you participate in
- Music
- What you're looking forward to

You may type or handwrite your letter. Please make it neat. Remember you are writing this to your teacher, so make sure your spelling, grammar and punctuation are correct.

6th Grade Humanities Supply List 2018-2019

These are the supplies you will need to have this school year in the Humanities Academy. **Teacher-specific supplies may be requested the first day of school.**

- Two composition books- English
- Loose leaf lined paper in 1 1/2" binder with 5 dividers (Honors only)
- 4 spiral 1-subject notebooks- Math, Science, Ancient Civilization, English
- Pencils (if mechanical, bring extra lead)
- Pencil sharpener with case for shavings
- Blue or Black pens (colored pens for correcting)
- Index cards
- Glue sticks
- Corrective Tape (Not White Out Liquid!!)
- Colored Pencils
- Markers
- Highlighters
- Ruler-metric system included
- Carry a book to read at all times!

Recommended supplies but not necessary:

- Blunt end scissors
- Flash drive

Reed Library News

One of the best features of Reed is our library, in my humble opinion. Make sure you find your way there when school starts. We are open at nutrition, lunch, and after school from 3:00- 4:00 pm each day (except Tuesdays). As your librarian, I'm encouraging you to spend your summer **READING!!!** It's a perfect way to beat the heat and explore new worlds. If you don't know what to read, check out the books on the [Battle of the Books](#) list. The books range a wide array of topics as well as maturity levels. Have your parents look over the longer list with the summaries to make sure the book is appropriate for you.

Besides being a librarian, I'm also an English teacher. So I'm going to encourage you to also write during the summer. During the first week back at school, I'm going to have a prize for the first 30 students who bring me a character sketch of their favorite character (or villain) from your summer reading. Your character sketch should be 1-2 pages in length and address the following:

- Your name, grade, & English Teacher's name
- Name of character you selected as a title for your writing
- Title of Book & Author
- Describe the character

- Select a word or phrase that best describes the character & explain why. Give a few examples from the story to support your ideas.
- Compare the character to another character from a DIFFERENT book, TV show, or movie. Explain why you think they are alike.
- Why you liked this character.

I'll be accepting entries during nutrition, lunch, and after school during the first week of school.

*Good Luck,
Tiffany Federico, Reed Librarian*

Latin Enrichment

Salve! This means *Hello* or *Welcome* and is the root of the English word *Salutations*. It is the very first word my Latin students learn as I greet them with it each day. I have taught Walter Reed Middle School's Latin class for the last 7 years. Traditionally Latin has been offered to the IHP and Humanities Academy students. These academies seemed most likely to benefit from language instruction. However, I believe other Academy students would also gain a lot from studying Latin as well. [Click here to read more!](#)

*Vale,
Ms. Tomlinson*

Note: if you would like your child to be considered for the Latin enrichment class, please respond to djv4258@lausd.net with name of child, "Latin" as the subject line. Thank you!

6th Grade/New Student Orientation Wednesday August 8, 2018

Orientation will begin with a 20 minute presentation in the school auditorium so please be prompt (**Arrive on time at either 9 AM or 3 PM**). Come meet other students, parents, and teachers in the Humanities Academy before school officially begins on August 14th. You will be able to tour the campus and also purchase P.E. uniforms and school clothing conforming to our [school dress code policy](#). Come get your textbooks, school photo ID (this will be your yearbook picture!), and your assigned locker. Don't forget to try out your locker combination! Tentative class schedules will be available. Plan to spend 1 – 1 1/2 hours on campus.

Please come at the time designated below:

9 – 11:30 AM Last Names A – L
3 – 5:30 PM Last Names M - Z

Reed Network News (RNN)

Stay informed! We encourage you to sign up for the weekly Reed Network News (RNN). Sign up at: <http://reedms.com/subscribe-to-reed-network-news/>

Meal Applications 2018-2019

During summer break the Application for Meal Benefits will be mailed to your household. We strongly urge every Reed family to complete the Meal Application, as this establishes our eligibility for much needed federal dollars for our school. You can also apply online **Beginning July 1st**: <https://www.myschoolapps.com>.

Parent Center

Our Parent Center Coordinator Myriam Arechiga will be available at the 6th Grade/New Student Orientation for any parent who may need extra help in Spanish. She is also available all school days between 8 AM and 11:30 AM in Room 106. Myriam's email is mxa2648@lausd.net.

Carpool Sign-Up

If you are interested in forming a carpool with other Reed families, you can sign up here:

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeA4x1dHDNUowXP8qOAUqi3hqTZMu3cc5v1MGqQjKSVXt3kvg/viewform>

First Day of School Tuesday August 14, 2018

Student names and homeroom assignments will be posted at every entrance. All Reed students are expected to be in their seats, in their homerooms, no later than 8 AM. Dress code is enforced starting first day of school (please see our school website, www.reedms.com, for [dress code policy](#)).

If for any reason your plans have changed, and your child is no longer attending Reed next August, please tell us as soon as possible: djv4258@lausd.net.

Thank you,

Debbie Vodhanel

SLC Office

Walter Reed Middle School

818-487-7600