



MARINE SCIENCE MAGNET HIGH SCHOOL

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Dr. Nicholas J. Spera, *Principal*
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Dear MSMHS Family,

Hope your summer is off to a safe, relaxing, and fun start. Some of you have expressed early interest in your summer reading book requirement. With such a large percentage of all MSMHS sophomores, juniors and seniors taking Advanced Placement (AP) and/or University of Connecticut (ECE) courses that demand required summer work and readings over the summer, we have decided that all returning MSMHS students will not have a required book for the summer. However, we are recommending that each returning student read a non-fiction book for enjoyment and skill building over the summer. **As for all incoming freshmen students, you will have a required summer reading assignment and book this summer.**

As you enjoy your summer vacation, it is critical for you to continue the intellectual process that supports the mission of MSMHS. Research has shown that students who read during the summer maintain the literacy gains that they have made during the school year. In order to begin the 2019-2020 school year on the right path, please be sure to read the required text entitled, *Mindset* by Carol Dweck, prior to handing in your essay at freshman orientation on August 16, 2019. When reading your assigned novel, be sure to:

- Read the book slowly and thoroughly;
- Be ready to speak about the book when you come to class on August 28th;
- Study it, mark or highlight what you think are important passages from the text and write down reactions, questions, reflections that you may have.

All incoming freshmen and transfer students are required to complete the following two assignments:

1. Read *Mindset* by Carol Dweck
2. Complete the two page (typed) reflection using the accompanying questions below.

The written two page assignment is due at freshman orientation on August 16, 2019 and will be used to assess the writing skill of the student. Students must type a two page reflection which addresses the following questions:

- Discuss why and how (using evidence from the book and your own experiences) the book, *Mindset*, relates to the core values and beliefs of MSMHS and yourself.
- Discuss how the book may have changed, redefined, or strengthened your thinking about school, athletics, relationships, etc.

If any family has financial hardships that could delay the completion of the assigned text please contact me.

For all returning students, we encourage you to continue to improve your skills for next year. All returning sophomores, juniors, and seniors, continue to practice the PSAT, and SAT by using the Khan Academy online resources that are free. In addition, research has shown that reading non-fiction works (novels, newspapers, magazines) and discussing them with friends and family improves reading comprehension. Continue to use Accountable Talk throughout the summer with your family and friends. Your effort in the summer will pay dividends! In addition, seniors should continue to draft their college essays prior to returning in August.

Enjoy the summer but don't forget to... **Get Your Homework Done!**

All the best!

Dr. Nicholas J. Spera
Principal

We believe that effort creates ability and that all students can succeed.