Dear Students and Parents/Guardians of the Freshman Class,

Welcome to an exciting, new educational adventure. To prepare for the journey, the “Summer Reading Requirements” are listed below. The required reading materials have been carefully compiled from several noted sources to capture student interest.

Finally, the most important aspect of reading is enjoyment. So, consider securing audial versions of printed texts. Keep in mind; they are not to be used in place of the book but in conjunction with actual reading of the printed text. Audial and visual presentations facilitate students’ connections to literature by making the work come alive.

Have a safe, enjoyable, and relaxing summer!

Happy reading,

Ms. Balmir

In-coming 9th grade students are required to read the following novels by September.

* Funny in Farsi: A Memoir of Growing Up Iranian in America – Firoozeh Dumas (Grade Level 7 -12)
  - ISBN-10: 0812968379

* Lagoon - Nnedi Okorafor (Grade Level 7 -12)
  - ISBN-10: 1481440888

Upon their return to school in September, students will be assessed on their reading of both novels. (Websites that provide the summaries of the books will not be beneficial.) Please be aware, the questions on the assessments will be difficult to answer if a student attempts to side-step the reading process or fails to read carefully. It will serve the student well to keep a notebook as they are reading. This will allow them to think critically about what they are reading and remember important moments within the book.

It will also be important for the students to use dictionaries, google translator, or the glossary in Okorafor’s book. Though these books are written in English, the authors do use words from their language. Please allow yourself to be fully immersed in the text by embracing these moments of culture as opposed to allowing it to create a barrier between you and the text.

Please keep in mind reading the wrong book will not be excusable because the ISBN numbers are provided.