

THE BIRCH WATHEN LENOX SCHOOL
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June 1, 2021

Dear Incoming 9th Graders,

Welcome to the Upper School. We are looking forward to meeting you in September! Before that happens, there is some work that you need to complete over the summer. Upper School students must read **one** required text and at least **two** additional books of their own choosing from the US Summer Reading Suggestions List. Take your time to peruse this list, as we hope you choose from genres that you love, or from those you've always thought about trying.

The required text for 9th grade is *The Secret Life of Bees* by Sue Monk Kidd. We will spend the first few weeks of school discussing the book and writing about it as well. It is important that you spend time reading and annotating this book, as we can always spot the students who only watched the film. With regard to annotations, you can do this however you'd like. Notes in the book, in your notebook, on post-its, etc. are all acceptable. We want to see how you usually annotate.

We are excited about the conversations we will have together about the summer reading and the work you will produce. Foundations of Literature, our course next year, is a really fun class and a great way to enter Upper School English! Enjoy the reading, and we can't wait to meet each of you in the fall!

Sincerely,

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