

Summer Reading 2021

Let's Read

Summer is a great time to read! While we are excited about *The Kindness Formula: Caring + Character = Success*, we also want to leave you time to find and read books that you are interested in. To develop the reading habits that will help you in school and in life, we encourage you to find books you want to read.

Read biographies of people who fascinate you, read histories of events or time periods you are interested in, read novels with great characters, read motivational books, read the classics, read another book by an author you love. Read as a family, read with a friend, read in the morning, read at night. Make reading a habit, as instinctual as checking your phone.

We believe that reading is good and know that habitual readers do well in school. First year college students are expected to read 5,000 pages! Are you ready? Sustained reading increases vocabulary, solidifies academic gains, and helps ensure college success. It also helps us grow in empathy, knowledge, and curiosity.

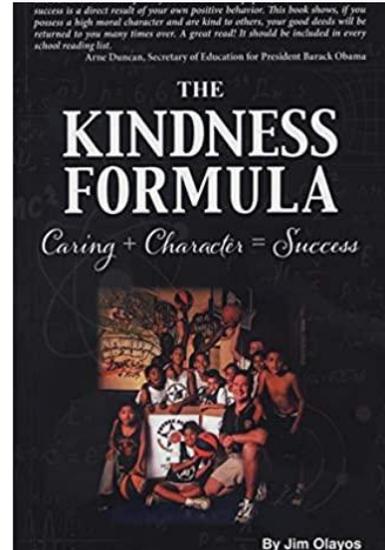
You should read at least one more book of your own choosing over the summer, but sincerely hope that you read even more. You will be asked to do a project with this book at the beginning of the year.



One Book, One School

We are excited to announce another One Book, One School (OBOS) campaign for this year's summer reading. Our hope is that by reading a common book we can begin the year with something that we can all talk about. This summer's selection is *The Kindness Formula: Caring+Kindness=Success* by Notre Dame's own Director of Athletic Development, Jim Olayos.

Notre Dame's mission statement states, "As a caring, diverse community grounded in Catholic teaching, we challenge all students to reach their God-given potential, to take their place in our society, and to do service for the good of others." Mr. Olayos's book fits beautifully with our mission, and we encourage families to read and discuss this book together.



"A lifelong quest to simply make a better world is manifested so eloquently in this book....In a time where social and emotional learning (SEL) is at the forefront of educational curriculums and goals, this book answers the call with a message of finding strength of character, empathy, responsibility and goal setting through life's basic lessons. This unique self-help book allows for a personal assessment in an engaging and positive way. THE KINDNESS FORMULA leads you on a special path to success through positive character traits and good deeds. It speaks to a different view of success and how a kind and compassionate outlook can provide the keys to personal fulfillment." (Amazon.com)

Assignment:

Each chapter of this book ends with a personal assessment and "change the world challenge." Students should reflect on four of these lessons and write about them in a Google Doc. Students will submit it during the first week of class.

Course Specific Requirements

In addition to *The Kindness Formula* and a book of choice, students enrolled in certain classes have another requirement. Students will be expected to have these books read before school begins and be able to discuss and write about them at the beginning of the year.

- High Honors Freshmen: *Water for Elephants* by Sara Gruen.
- AP British Literature (HH Sophomores): *Frankenstein* by Mary Shelley.
- HH American Literature: *Their Eyes Were Watching God* by Zora Neale Hurston
- Honors English 4 (UConn ECE): *The Glass Castle* by Jeanette Walls
- AP Humanities (HH Seniors): *Cane River* by Lalita Tademy

How to Find a Book

We encourage parents and students to work together to find books. If you are having trouble thinking of a book, here are a couple of questions that might help:

- Do you have a favorite athlete, artist, politician, or saint? There might be a biography on or autobiography by that person.
- Ready for a quest? Tackle something epic like *Lord of the Rings*.
- Need a new world? Find a mystery or fantasy series that will give you a world you can live in all summer long.
- Want to travel? Choose a book about a place you want to visit.
- Thinking about a career? Find books written by people who are doing the work you want to do.
- Ready for spiritual growth? Pick up a devotional or prayer book. Read Scripture.
- Want to learn a skill? Check out a self-help or do-it-yourself book.
- Are you a rising senior (or parent of one) anxious about college? *Where You Go Is Not Who You'll Be* by Frank Bruni

The American Library Association's YALSA awards are a great place to look for titles (<http://www.ala.org/yalsa/booklistsawards/bookawards>).

Resources

- Your **library**: A great place to go for all kinds of books and great recommendations...and it's free!
- **Libby**: This app lets you download books onto a tablet or e-reader for free through your library. You can even download some audiobooks for free.
- **Audible**: Download audiobooks to your phone that you can listen to while you drive, exercise, or sit on the beach.
- [Amazon](#), [Alibris](#), [Abebooks](#), and [Indiebound](#) are all places to shop online for new and used books.

If you have any questions, please email Mr. Marc Sulzycki (msulzycki@notredame.org).