

Dear Brooks Community,

I hope this letter finds you all enjoying the transition into summer vacation! As we all know, one of the highlights of the summer months is reading. It is my pleasure to help orient you in Brooks School's summer reading and work expectations for our students.

Brooks School launched our first All Community Read during the summer of 2015, and the book selection has rotated through the History, Science, English, Math and World Language Departments. This year, the book was selected by a committee made up of both students and employees, led by Dean of Community Life Ashley Johnston on behalf of the Diversity, Equity & Inclusion team. After a series of spirited discussions over the spring months, the group selected *Born a Crime: Stories from a South African Childhood* by Trevor Noah as this summer's read. While we expect all students and faculty to read the book, it is purposefully called an All Community Read because we hope others join in- staff, parents, grandparents, alumni and more! We are already planning the inclusion of the book into our fall curricula, and look forward to a slate of community discussions, speakers and films to supplement our learning on "the twilight of apartheid and the tumultuous days of freedom that followed."

In OnBrooks>Groups>Summer Reading & Assignments, you will find folders for every major subject area. The Department Chair in each respective department has posted the summer reading and assignment expectations for each course. If your course is not included, that means that no summer work is expected of you. Core texts and the All Community Read may be purchased through Follett, our online bookseller, and other books via any distributor of your choosing. The Brooks account through Follett will go live on July 14th. A link can be found on the Summer Reading & Assignments bulletin board in OnBrooks when it opens.

Perhaps most notably, several years ago the members of the English department redesigned their approach to summer reading, and have selected over 90 titles from which you may choose. An explanation of the program can be found in the English topic folder in OnBrooks. It is important that you read through it, and then click the link or download, which features further instructions and the book titles.

Finally, it is the aim of our academic departments to appropriately enrich, challenge and prepare our students for their next year of study. If a summer reading and assignment workload feels too great, as in, a student may have been assigned books or have coursework in all of their classes, I encourage that student to be in touch with their advisor. That advisor then may communicate with the respective department chairs on how to fairly adjust the workload expectations. As always, please do not hesitate to call me at 978-725-6355 or email me at swaters@brooksschool.org if you have any questions. In the meantime, happy reading!

Sincerely,
Susanna W. Waters
Dean of Academic Affairs