



Dear Incoming 8th Grade Class of 2023,

Congratulations! You have successfully met the criteria to advance into your final year of your Middle School career! This year will be an exciting time as you continue to make memories, but will also be one that requires great resilience, as you work towards achieving your academic goals and demonstrating preparedness for your High School career. This year will also be one where you reflect on the values and vision of Dr. King as you delve into conversations on social justice.

One of our primary goals is to develop lifelong readers and learners. Summer reading is an opportunity for you to practice the comprehension, analytical, and note-taking skills learned throughout the year while reading a thought-provoking and enjoyable book. The book, *Stamped: Racism, Antiracism, and You* by Jason Reynolds and Dr. Ibram X. Kendi has been chosen by our staff.

*Stamped* equips readers with vocabulary like “segregationist”, “assimilationist”, and “**anti-racist**” in accessible language for young readers. It equips them with examples of each and an understanding of how these labels are fluid. This book will allow students, teachers, and the BelovED community at large to have a common language and a guide we can use to make progress and dialogue moving forward as we combat racial injustice together. In conjunction with this reading, scholars will be practicing their annotation skills by actively taking notes on their reading using either a separate notebook or sticky notes. Students will have no additional assignment for the summer beyond reading and taking notes on *Stamped*. These notes will then be used as a resource on their **first test grade** of their 8th grade year which will be happening in their **Humanities A Class the second week of school**.

Keep in mind that this assignment is a chance for you to put your best foot forward and demonstrate that you’re ready to tackle the challenges of your final year in Middle School.

Should you have any questions, do not hesitate to email me. We look forward to building on the foundation you have helped establish during the summer.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kate Piluso".

Kate Piluso  
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