



May 2021

Dear Upper School Community,

Well, we did it! We completed the 2020-21 school year with all of its bumps and glitches, all of its complications and challenges. We know that for some students, this year felt very easy; for others, this was terribly challenging. And we had the entire spectrum of experiences in between those extremes represented, too.

A commonality now is that we all need a break from screens. No more comments about being muted, no more foiled attempts to connect, and no more confusion about where, digitally, to find a meeting or a discussion group or an assignment. We need time to reflect and time to allow ourselves to enter into different, non-digital realms. It is time to read!

Last summer we asked all students to read the youth version of the non-fiction book *Mountains Beyond Mountains*. The book addresses the issue of widespread and unchecked spread of infectious diseases, unequal access to healthcare, and the financial and political challenges of producing and supplying vaccines.

This year, we open up the choice – students should find a book on their own that they can really delve into – on any topic. Once the reading is finished, there is a questionnaire to complete here:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/CDSummer2021>

The answers will be shared with our English Department, advisors, and other faculty. Students should remember that what they write and how they respond tells us a lot!

If students do not know where to start, I recommend the following:

1. Our Charlotte Country Day Library page. Students can go to Teams, click on the Upper School Library icon, then click on the Library Catalog tab.
2. The public library. Students can go into any branch and talk to a librarian about what they like!
3. Local book sellers: [Park Road Books](#), Book Buyers in Plaza Midwood, [Julia's Café and Books](#), and various Barnes and Noble stores. They all have employees who can offer advice!
4. Begin with reviews! The *New York Times* provides many lists, including one specifically for [summer reading](#).

And, of course, we would love it if you read the same book and had some good conversations about it.

In addition to this easy assignment, students will also find required summer reading on the following pages. Not all classes have assignments, but you should check to see what is expected. Teachers will assume that the texts are read when they begin the school year, so it is important that your child is prepared.

We look forward to having our students back on campus for a more normal year; in the meantime, we all need some time to disconnect. I hope that you and your family have a restful summer.

Sincerely,

Tanya Andrysiak  
Upper School Director of Studies