THE A CLASSICAL CHRISTIAN ACADEMY OAKS
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Happy Summer Incoming Juniors,

Welcome to Medieval Traditio V: Theology, philosophy, literature, and history interwoven into one synthesized, immersive class. This summer, our first wise guide is C.S. Lewis. Though known for his popular fiction and children's stories, *The Chronicles of Narnia*, Lewis was a literary critic, professor of Medieval literature at Oxford, and Chair of Renaissance and Medieval Literature at Cambridge—a position created in 1954 especially to suit Lewis's expertise. With his expertise, he has crafted an adventure, called *The Ransom Trilogy,* to incline our heart and ear to love and hear a particular perspective.

Over the next two years, you will read all three installments of Lewis's *Ransom Trilogy*. You will start this summer at the very beginning with *Out of the Silent Planet*. Lewis draws us into a cosmic story told with a faithful Medieval perspective on life and the universe. A quality preparation for our year ahead.

As you read, consider:

- What are the general characteristics of Malacandra as a planet?
- What influence does Malacandra have on each of its visitors?
- What elements unite and distinguish the races of martians?
- What underlying principles motivate Weston as Oyarsa examines him?
- What is language? Its meaning? Its purpose?

Consider reading these other complimentary titles alongside *Out of the Silent Planet.*

The Discarded Image | C. S. Lewis: *The Discarded Image* tells how the Medieval image of the world came to be—and came to be discarded. This book is a gratifying change of pace for Lewis's readers accustomed to his fiction, and will be a boon to you as we look forward to Dante's *Divine Comedy*. Let Lewis show you a world charged with meaning, ringing with harmony. Consider as you read: What is the modern reputation of the Medievals compared to who they actually were? How does Lewis describe medieval man's chief characteristics? What is the appeal of this Model, for the Medievals? For us? Is this model true?

Inferno | Dante: We will read *Purgatorio* and *Paradiso* together in class. It will bless you and enhance your understanding of the second two canticles of the *Divine Comedy* to refresh *Inferno* through re-reading and re-viewing your notes from eighth grade.

Prince Caspian | C. S. Lewis: A tale of chivalry and martial excellence, just like *Out of the Silent Planet*. Not only Medieval in its tone, but exceptionally relevant to many themes we will encounter this year.

Voyage of the Dawn Treader | C. S. Lewis: Let Lewis inspire and tutor your sight through this journey to the Sun, toward enlightenment and happiness.

As you read *Out of the Silent Planet*, and any other excellent books over the summer, annotate! Talk to yourself and the author in the margins. Mark significant words. Underline important sentences. Summarize at the bottom of the page. Number parts of an argument. Write your own questions and comments.

I expect you to have thoughtfully read and annotated *Out of the Silent Planet* by the first day of school. Should you be unable to annotate in your copy, please take faithful notes on a separate sheet of paper. Record worthy quotes in your traditional place, or on the separate sheet of notepaper you employ. This will aid you in reflection and discussion at the beginning of the year.

Should you have any questions as you read (or about the class itself), please send me an email! I look forward to being with you in the fall to embark on our journey in our 'little boats.'

Best
-Mrs. Holly Thomas
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