Hello, lovely Freshmen,

Can you imagine a world where you could not read the very Word of God? Not that you did not, but that you could not. First, the Bible was an expensive commodity, and you certainly could not afford it. Second, even if you could afford it, it was not written in English. This would be a problem. How can you love and obey God's Law without knowing it? William Tyndale prayed, "Lord, open the King of England's eyes," because during his ministry, translating and printing a Bible in English was a capital offense. Scott O'Dell captures this reality in his book: *The Hawk that Dare Not Hunt by Day.* This is your summer reading. Enjoy the story.

Here are a few things it will be helpful to know when reading:

1. Manifesto is a public declaration of policy and aims.
2. Diet is not in this context an eating choice, but rather a formal meeting of the church. Usually they are named for the town they met in. For example, The Diet of Worms is a church court that met in Worms, Germany.
3. Names of ships are capitalized and italicized.
4. There are a lot of places all over Europe travelled to in the story.

There are so many books out there to read, but here are a few suggestions to delight you and whet your appetite. Reread *The Lord of the Rings*. Explore the American Novel: *That Last of the Mohicans* if you are up for a challenge, *The Old Fashioned Girl, Little Women,* or *The Inheritance* by Louisa May Alcott. *Alice in Wonderland* by Lewis Carrol is a great beach read. And if you have not pressed on past *Anne of Green Gables* into the sequels, I commend them to you.

Next year, you get to start Traditio. Welcome! What exactly is Traditio? Christians are told that Christ is before all things, and in Him all things consist (Col.1:17). Since Christ holds together all things, Christians should expect and revel in the interconnectedness of the cosmos. Traditio is a curricula arrangement designed to do exactly that. It shows both how the whole world is under the lordship of Christ and how integrated disciplines truly are. History, Bible, Literature, Art, and Poetry integrate to paint a glorious portrait of our Father's world. The Overarching Goal: Love the true, good, and beautiful.

You can look forward to a survey of American roots, history, and literature this year, reading: *Henry V* to *To Kill a Mockingbird.* The more contemporary our studies become, the more sharp the antithesis between faithfulness and wickedness also becomes. So, we will be considering the bad guys and how Christians have responded. As we say in cantabile, God is good and He does good. This year will be a hunt to see God's handiwork and respond righteously as modeled in the Old Testament Prophets.
For now, you are still enjoying sunburns and bare feet. Enjoy your summer and I look forward to seeing you in the fall!

Grace and Peace,
Mrs. Bursese