



Dear Members of the Class of 2020, 2021, 2022, and 2023,

Each summer, the whole SEM community reads a book together. When we return from summer break, the whole school comes together and explores the themes that resonated with us. This summer we will read about robots that have gone rogue, animated origami, impermanence, and rebellious bees; yes, all of these seemingly disparate tidbits are a part of what you'll experience in this coming school year's All-School Read.

We will all read a novel and three short stories. The novel is Isaac Asimov's *I, Robot*. The short stories are Ken Liu's "Paper Menagerie" and "Mono No Aware" as well as E. Lily Yu's "The Cartographer Wasps and Anarchist Bees." We're not reading anything from Kafka, but Kafka believed that, "a book must be the axe for the frozen sea inside us." And while the larger context of what he was saying was pretty dark, for our purposes, know that we all read together because here at SEM we love to read. But we also do it because good books unlock things within us; showing us new things about ourselves and the world. So read these works and think about what makes us human. Is it that we have a soul? Is it that we strive to create and make progress? Is it that we love? Is it that we suffer and sacrifice? Is it that we are imperfect?

Links to the short stories and where to pick up a copy of the novel are posted on the [mySEM portal page](#). You can read the short stories online or print them, but we ask you obtain a copy of the novel. You can order the book online, but if you are having a hard time obtaining a copy, please contact us. Enjoy reading the All-School Reads this summer, and look forward to awesome discussions and activities when we return in the fall.

As for summer work and back-to-school supplies, if you are in a course that assigns summer work, your teacher would have already contacted you directly. Back-to-school supply lists for year-long and 1st trimester courses will be up on teacher class pages by August 1, 2019. If you have any questions about your schedule or summer work please contact Dean of Students [Eva Cunningham](#).

Warm Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kanika Durland". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Kanika Durland
Assistant Head of School for Academics and Equity