



SAINT IGNATIUS

Cleveland • Jesuit • 1886

May 1, 2021

Dear Class of 2024,

This summer the English Department is requesting that you spend some time engaged in summer reading. Please read below for information relative to your assigned summer reading title. **You are only required to read the book for the English course for which you are scheduled.**

English II AND Honors English II

The Red Bandanna by Tom Rinaldi

One Sunday morning before church, when Welles Crowther was a young boy, his father gave him a red handkerchief for his back pocket. Welles kept it with him that day, and just about every day to come; it became a fixture and his signature.

A standout athlete growing up in Upper Nyack, NY, Welles was also a volunteer at the local fire department, along with his father. He cherished the necessity and the camaraderie, the meaning of the role. Fresh from college, he took a Wall Street job on the 104th floor of the South Tower of the World Trade Center, but the dream of becoming a firefighter with the FDNY remained.

When the Twin Towers fell, Welles's parents had no idea what happened to him. In the unbearable days that followed, they came to accept that he would never come home. But the mystery of his final hours persisted. Eight months after the attacks, however, Welles's mother read a news account from several survivors, badly hurt on the 78th floor of the South Tower, who said they and others had been led to safety by a stranger, carrying a woman on his back, down nearly twenty flights of stairs. After leading them down, the young man turned around. "I'm going back up," was all he said.

The survivors didn't know his name, but despite the smoke and panic, one of them remembered a single detail clearly: the man was wearing a red bandanna.

*Tom Rinaldi's *The Red Bandanna* is about a fearless choice, about a crucible of terror and the indomitable spirit to answer it. Examining one decision in the gravest situation, it celebrates the difference one life can make.*

Availability

If obtaining a copy of your assigned book is a financial challenge for your family, please contact me via email at tcaputo@ignatius.edu. Please be sure to have a copy of the text with you during the opening weeks of school. E-books are also acceptable.

Summer Reading Assessment

Be prepared to answer objective, short response, and/or essay questions, engage in active discussions using your text, and complete a reflective written assessment.

Active Reading Strategies

The English Department recommends that students keep a reading journal and/or that they annotate their personal copies of their assigned summer reading text. An effective active reading process may include:

Recording chapter summaries. Take some time at the end of each chapter to write, in your own words, what the chapter was about.

Annotating while reading. Make notes on important events, character developments, symbols, use of literary elements, and your own observations.

Asking critical thinking questions. What questions do you have after reading your book? What are the issues, viewpoints, and themes of the book? How does the content of this book apply to your life or the lives of others?

We hope that the summer break provides you with some time to rest, reflect, and prepare for the new academic year at Saint Ignatius High School.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Terra Caputo".

Dr. Terra Caputo
Chair, English Department