

## **Dear New Creative Writing Students!**

Welcome to Kinder HSPVA! We are so excited that you will be joining our department. We have a few items to tell you about as you look ahead to the new year.

### **SUMMER HOMEWORK**

There is no formal summer homework for incoming freshmen. Instead we ask that you take time to read a good book and maybe start keeping a journal of observations you make as you pass through the summer. We won't be checking these things; these ways for you to start warming up for the next four years.

### **READ**

I'll just mention again – read something you enjoy this summer! The best way to become a better writer is to read. Consider getting a library card if you don't already have one to discover writers or titles new and exciting to you. The Harris County Public Library makes it easy to get a card online: <https://www.hcpl.net/homepage> .

If you don't know where to start- BuzzFeed has a good list called "26 Contemporary Books That Should Be Taught in High School"

[https://www.buzzfeed.com/brettvergara/26-contemporary-books-that-should-be-taught-in-high-school?utm\\_term=.ia7Qb0B1YM#.kpnvNepbdQ](https://www.buzzfeed.com/brettvergara/26-contemporary-books-that-should-be-taught-in-high-school?utm_term=.ia7Qb0B1YM#.kpnvNepbdQ)

### **COURSEWORK**

In the next year, you'll take introductory classes in fiction and poetry along with a course where you where you look at the ancient texts like Gilgamesh and Oedipus. You'll fuse visual art and writing and try your hand at spoken word. We may ask you to try things that take you out of your comfort zone, all to give you ideas and methods that you can add to your creative writing toolbox. We hope that you approach each project with an open mind and a creative spirit, all while you and your classmates support each other on this four-year adventure at Kinder HSPVA. It is an exciting time, and I can't wait to see where it takes each of you.

Most importantly, have a wonderful summer! If you have any questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to contact me at [jswitek@houstonisd.org](mailto:jswitek@houstonisd.org) . I promise to check my email at least once a week over the summer. HSPVA is a wonderful school and we look forward to your being a part of it.

Warm regards,

Judith Switek  
Creative Writing Department Chair

Angela Apte  
Creative Writing Faculty

Guadalupe Mendez  
Creative Writing Faculty