



May 2010

Dear Parents,

I am writing to give your incoming Derryfield student his or her first English assignment. Sixth graders should read Rick Riordan's novel, *The Lightning Thief*, before the first day of classes. Our first unit in sixth grade will be on Greek mythology, so I am hoping that this book will hook the students and pique their curiosity.

The Lightning Thief is a fast-paced fantasy about a 12-year-old New York City boy named Percy Jackson who is amazed to discover his true heritage, his special talents, and the fact that he must go on a dangerous mission to the Underworld. With the help of his companions, Annabeth and Grover, Percy has the adventure of a lifetime. I encourage you to read this novel over the summer with your child because this experience will provide opportunities for reflection and conversation. During the first week of English class, we will explore the book's content and the author's writing style. Students will reflect on the book in their reading journals and discuss it with their peers.

The Lightning Thief is the first book in a series called *Percy Jackson and the Olympians*. The other books are *Sea of Monsters*, *The Titan's Curse*, *Battle of the Labyrinth*, and *The Last Olympian*. If, by chance, your child has already read *The Lightning Thief*, he or she may read the next book or any book in the series. It is a good idea to read the books in order, however. In addition, if your child has read the entire series, he or she should read Rick Riordan's newest novel, *The Red Pyramid*.

You will find *The Lightning Thief* as well as the other titles in most libraries or at Varsity Books.com, the home of Derryfield's official online bookstore. Simply go to www.derryfield.org and click on the "parents" link on the top right to find the "VarsityBooks.com" link. There is a "Required Summer Reading" section as part of the Derryfield portion of Varsity Books. The ISBN number for the current paperback edition is 9780786838653. Additional information about ordering Derryfield books will be mailed home to you in August.

As your child will be discussing and writing about the Rick Riordan book of his or her choice in English class, please arrange to have the book at school for the first week.

It is a pleasure to welcome you and your family to the Derryfield community, and I look forward to seeing you in September. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at kwhitmore@derryfield.org.

Sincerely,

Karen P. Whitmore