Read "The School" by Donald Barthelme. As you read, consider the essential questions for our first unit of study:

- What is the purpose and intended outcome of education?
- What is the role of a student? How does it differ from someone invested in learning?
- What is the role of a teacher and of a school in one’s education?
- What is the relationship between education and success?
- Which systemic/institutional failures and inequities most impede a student’s education?

After reading, respond to the following journal prompt:

- In an informal style, share your thoughts and reflections on your reading experience using knowledge from your English class last year. Consider what the author wants readers to think about or takeaway from this text. Be sure to fully explain and support your thoughts and feelings about specific aspects of the story with evidence from the entire text.

Assignments that reflect any form of academic dishonesty (plagiarism/cheating) will earn a zero (without the possibility of resubmission).

- Exemplary journals will contain:
  - 250-500 words,
  - Textual evidence,
  - Minimal summary,
  - Original thoughts/personal insights (no SparkNotes),
  - Reflective of a student’s best effort,
  - This should be typed for the first day of school

Looking for supplementary reading to prepare for this year? Here are some recommendations from our team!

Jennifer McLaughlin: The Fire Next Time by James Baldwin

Natalie Zuravleff: The MaddAddam Trilogy by Margaret Atwood

Alison Conroy: Breath, Eyes, Memory by Edwidge Danticat

Jenna Postler: Fates and Furies by Lauren Groff

Spencer Nissly: Sing, Unburied, Sing by Jesmyn Ward