

May 25, 2007

Dear St. Mary's Middle School families,

Vacation time is here, and one great way to relax in the summer is by having a good book to read.

Reading experts note that most young readers suffer a backslide in reading skills during the summer downtime. We have implemented a summer reading program that is mandatory for all students. Families can make reading a priority during the summer months, and children will learn that people never need to take a vacation from learning.

Research shows that a consistent amount of time for reading each day (30-60 minutes) increases reading and comprehension skills. This will benefit your child in every subject, including math. This is the goal of St. Mary's Summer Reading program. It is also our hope that this recreational reading will promote a life-long love of reading for your child.

I have compiled a list of books that will appeal to the tastes of a variety of readers. You can find these books at Barnes and Noble, Books-A-Million, or at the public library. They can be ordered through www.barnesandnoble.com or www.amazon.com.

Attached to this page are the assignments and guidelines for grading the summer reading. Projects will be due the first week of school, and these assignments will give your child his or her first literature grade for the new school year.

Have a wonderful summer, and I will see you in August!

Sincerely,

Mrs. Basinger
7th/8th grade literature teacher

7th and 8th grades Summer Reading List 2007

Adams, Richard *Watership Down*
Alcott, Louisa May *Little Women*
Bode, N. E. *The Anybodies*
Broach, Elise *Shakespeare's Secret*
Byars, Betsy *The Summer of the Swans*
Cooney, Caroline B. *Burning Up*
Cooney, Caroline B. *Code Orange*
Dokey, Cameron *Before Midnight: A Retelling of Cinderella*
Du Maurier, Daphne *Rebecca*
Duncan, Lois *Don't Look Behind You*
George, Jean Craighead *My Side of the Mountain*
Haddix, Margaret Peterson *Double Identity*
Hale, Shannon *Princess Academy*
King, Stephen *The Eyes of the Dragon*
Korman, Gordon *No More Dead Dogs*
Lowery, Lois *Gossamer*
Lupica, Mike *Heat*
Lupica, Mike *Travel Team*
Napoli, Donna Jo *Bound*
Patterson, James *Maximum Ride: School's Out Forever*
Ritter, John H. *The Boy Who Saved Baseball*
Rowling, J.K. *Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows*
Salisbury, Graham *House of the Red Fish*
Salisbury, Graham *Eyes of the Emperor*
Shusterman, Neil *Full Tilt*
Spinelli, Jerry *The Library Card*
Springer, Nancy *The Case of the Missing Marquess*
Updale, Eleanor *Montmorency and the Assassins*
Woodruff, Elvira *The Ravenmaster's Secret*

You may also read any novels that you have not already read by the following authors:

Realistic Fiction:

Sharon Creech
Joan Bauer
Walter Dean Myers
Margaret Peterson Haddix
Richard Peck
Carl Hiassen

Outdoor Adventure:

Will Hobbs
Gary Paulsen (Not *Hatchet*)
Jean Craighead George
Jack London

Mystery/Suspense:

Caroline B. Cooney
Lois Duncan
Agatha Christie
Neil Shusterman
Anthony Horowitz
Eleanor Updale (*Montmorency series*)

Historical Fiction:

Ann Rinaldi
Jane Yolen
Mildred Taylor

Fantasy:

Brian Jacques (<i>Redwall series</i>)	Eoin Colfer (<i>Artemis Fowl series</i>)
Cornelia Funke	J.K. Rowling (<i>Harry Potter series</i>)
Nancy Farmer	Patrick Carman (<i>Land of Elyon</i>)
D.J. MacHale (<i>Pendragon series</i>)	Andrew Clements
Gordon Korman	Garth Nix
C. S. Lewis	Michael Chabon
J.R.R. Tolkien (<i>Lord of the Rings</i>)	Jenny Nimmo (<i>Charlie Bones series</i>)
Kathryn Lasky (<i>Guardians of Ga'Hoole series</i>)	
Orson Scott Card (<i>Enders Game series</i>)	

You may also select any other age appropriate novel that you come across!

St. Mary's Middle School
Summer Reading Program
Assignments and Grading Guidelines

Assignments:

- A. Select three novels from the attached list and READ THEM! Keep a reading log for each book on the attached Reading Log form.
- B. You do not need to do a project for each novel. Pick one of the three novels and choose a project from the following list to do for that book only. Only quality work will be accepted for a grade.
1. Create and label a time line with no less than 5 events, but no more than 10 events from the book. Use poster board or long paper to draw your time line. Arrange the events in chronological order (first to last) using some kind of reference (dates, seasons, age, etc.) Timeline must include text describing the events at that point in the timeline in complete sentences. At least three of the events on the timeline must be illustrated and colored.
 2. Make a poster board advertisement of your book. You must create an appealing poster so someone will want to read the novel. Include the title, author, one or more illustrations, and a brief description of the novel. Your illustrations should depict characters or scenes from the book. Use a Sharpie marker for the text and colored pencils, crayons or markers for the illustrations.
 3. Write a plot for a sequel to the novel. The plot must include time and place, a description of important characters including their roles in the plot, and a description of what would take place in your sequel. The plot should be at least two pages typed, type must be no larger than 12 font, and the margins must be no larger than 1 inch wide.

4. Create a series of trading cards using characters or places in the novel. Draw a picture of each character/place on separate cards. On the back of the card write important information about the character/place: name, age, purpose in the novel, relationship to other characters, what happens to the character, what happens in that scene, why that scene is important, etc. Each trading card must be colored with colored pencils or markers. There must be a minimum of 5 trading cards.
- C. After you have completed reading the three novels, filling out the reading log, and completing one project, you and a parent must fill-out and sign the attached Summer Reading Verification form.

Grading Guidelines:

Upon completion of these assignments, you will receive a grade that will be averaged into your 1st Quarter literature grade.

To earn an A: turn in a completed reading log, verification form signed by a parent, and a quality completed project that meets all of the above criteria.

To earn a B: turn in a reading log, signed verification form and a project that meets most of the above criteria.

To earn a C: turn in a signed verification form and a complete project that meets some of the above criteria.

To earn a D: turn in a signed verification form and an incomplete project that meets little of the above criteria.

To earn an F: turn in nothing

