

June 4, 2009

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. If you need to see if a book is AR, you can visit the Renaissance Learning website at www.renlearn.com/store/

Attached to this page are the assignments and guidelines for grading the summer reading. **PLEASE READ THE REQUIREMENTS CAREFULLY.** 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,
Ms. Basinger
7th/8th grade literature teacher