

All Saints Catholic School
2023-2024 Middle School Summer Reading

Dear Middle School Students and Parents,

As the end of the school year approaches, we want to emphasize the importance of maintaining solid reading habits over the summer. Much of the research around summer reading suggests that students can lose more than two months of academic progress if they do not continue to read during summer months. Taking trips to the library, listening to audiobooks in the car, and discussing the books you are reading together are some ways you can continue to help develop life-long reading habits. Students over the summer are assigned to read two books.

Students may *choose one book from the attached Summer Literature/Language Arts Reading List* and the second book is a *mandatory assigned Social Studies Summer book*. In addition to reading the book, students will need to take notes on characters, setting, plot, conflict, and resolution. Students should also make note of two significant quotations and explain why they chose this particular statement for the Literature Language Art book. These requirements need to be typed and printed by the second day of school. Students will be required to write an essay during Language Arts class utilizing their summer notes.

The Social Studies required reading will be a multiple-choice assessment focusing on the novel's story, characters, setting, and historical elements during their Social Studies class at the beginning of the school year. There will also be numerous class discussions related to the historical contexts found in the novel.

Have a blessed summer!

The Middle School Team

Literature/Language Arts Required Reading

Rising 6th graders: (choose one of the following books)

Shakespeare's Secret By: Elise Broach

Named after a character in a Shakespeare play, misfit sixth-grader Hero becomes interested in exploring this unusual connection because of a valuable diamond supposedly hidden in her new house, an intriguing neighbor, and the unexpected picture of the most popular boy in school.

Blood on the River: James Town 1607 By: Elisa Carbone

Samuel Collier, an orphan and a page to Captain John Smith, narrates this intriguing story set in 1607 Jamestown. Told from the youth's point of view, this historical novel shows not only what the journey to the New World was like and how the colony functioned, but also the different perspectives of the new settlers and native peoples. Primary sources are integrated into the beginning of each chapter, giving the people and events in the book an unusually authentic feel.

Rising 7th graders: (choose one of the following books)

The Water Castle By: Megan Frazer Blakemore

In this novel, three loners become friends while searching for a miracle. After twelve-year-old Ephriam's Dad has a stroke, his family moves to Water Castle, their ancestral home in Crystal Springs, Maine. Ephraim, the prototypical ordinary middle kid, isn't thrilled about the relocation but looks forward to being the Big City fish in a small-town pond. Things don't go as expected as he discovers that the town is obsessed with science and full of overachievers.

War Stories By: Gordon Korman

Twelve-year-old Trevor loves playing war-based video games and idolizes his great-grandfather Jacob, who came home from World War II and was a celebrated hero awarded the Bronze Star Medal. The now ninety-three-year-old Jacob wants to retrace his journey and return to the small French village that his unit liberated. Trevor is going with him. The story flashes back to the great-grandfather's life as a 17-year-old soldier and the current time.

Rising 8th graders: (choose one of the following books)

Fever 1793 By: Laurie Halse Anderson

In an intense, well-researched tale an unforeseen sickness takes a Philadelphia teenager through one of the most devastating outbreaks of yellow fever in our country's history. It's 1793, and though business has never been better at the coffeehouse run by Matilda's widowed, strong-minded mother in what is then the national capital, vague rumors of disease come home to roost when death begins to surround the city without warning.

The Blackthorn Key By: Kevin Sands

For most orphans in seventeenth-century London, life is cruel and short. Christopher Rowe is one of the lucky few: chosen for an apprenticeship to a kind and brilliant apothecary, Benedict Blackthorn, Christopher is happily learning to solve complex intellectual puzzles and concoct everything from healing potions to gunpowder. But this idyll is not destined to last—someone is murdering the apothecaries of London.

SOCIAL STUDIES REQUIRED READING

Students are asked to read the following assigned book during the summer and will complete a multiple-choice assessment on the novel at the beginning of the year in Social Studies class. The assessment will relate specifically to the novel's story, characters, setting, and history. There will also be class discussions about the historical contexts found in the book.

6th Grade Social Studies Book: Social Studies Book: *The Adventures of Robin Hood* by Roger Lancelyn Green (Memoria Press)

7th Grade Social Studies Book: *My Brother Sam is Dead* by James Lincoln Collier

8th Grade Social Studies Book: *The Diary of Anne Frank* by Anne Frank