

Summer Reading

for students entering 8th grade

summer reading information is posted on the school's website: www.stfrancissschool.org



IT'S VACATION! YOU CAN'T BE SERIOUS!

Learning and Reading researchers continually trumpet the fact that reading is the single most effective activity to prevent summer learning loss (a.k.a. the Summer Slump). Studies show that students who read as few as six books during the summer months gain or maintain reading skills achieved during the preceding school year, while students who don't read during the summer may fall back as much as a grade level in their skills.



REQUIRED SUMMER READING and ASSIGNMENTS *for soon-to-be 8th graders*

1. Language Arts Required Reading and Assignment:

Choose a book from the Book List ⇨ and complete the following assignment:

Write a letter (at least one page) from the point of view of one of the characters to someone else in the book, written after the story has ended. Make sure to use the format of a letter and include a greeting and a signature. You can write the letter however you want, as long as it shows your understanding of the story and ideas about the character. If you're not sure what to write about, you might want to include the following:

- your character's hopes and fears for him/herself
- your character's hopes, fears, or questions for the person s/he's writing to
- questions your character still wonders about
- your character's thoughts on what s/he learned or accomplished in the book
- his/her plans for the future

2. Reader's Choice and Assignment:

Choose a book of your own. Write a letter about it to your future teacher, in which you do the following things:

- begin with a greeting
- in no more than 5-7 sentences, summarize the main events of the book
- describe two main characters: what are they like? how do you know? would you be friends with them? why or why not?
- ask two questions about the book — things you're still wondering about; then do your best to predict the answers
- what connections can you make between this book and your life, other books, or events in the world?
- end your letter with your final thoughts, including your opinion of the book

3. Social Studies Required Reading and Assignment:

Read Witch of Blackbird Pond by Elizabeth George Speare. (You were given a copy at school.) See Mr. Donovan's faculty webpage after June 15 for reading activities.

SPANISH STUDENTS:

Read El viaje de su vida by Lisa Turner and write a short essay about this book in Spanish. (If you didn't do so before the end of school, please stop by the St. Francis School office and purchase the book for \$6.)

BOOK LIST

choose one book listed below; free-choice for your second book

American Shaolin: Flying Kicks, Buddhist Monks, and the Legend of Iron Crotch: An Odyssey in the New China by Matthew Polly

The Night Birds
by Thomas Maltman

Skulduggery Pleasant
by Derek Land

Tamar: A Novel of Espionage, Passion, and Betrayal by Mal Peet

Eagle Blue: A Team, A Tribe, and A High School Basketball Season in Arctic Alaska by Michael D'Orso

The Blind Side: Evolution of a Game
by Michael Lewis

Unwind by Neal Shusterman

Fallen Angels by Walter Dean Myers

The Bean Trees
by Barbara Kingsolver

Catcher in the Rye by J.D. Salinger

Of Beetles and Angels
by Mawi Asgedom

The Kite Runner by Khaleel Hosseni

Reading is fun, but it's also good for your continued intellectual growth — you have to exercise the muscle between your ears to keep it strong, toned, and ready for heavy lifting in the fall.

