

June 4, 2018

Dear Middle School Students and Parents:

As you begin vacation, thoughts of the 2018-2019 school year probably do not occupy a great deal of your time. While you are enjoying your summer, however, it is important for your child to maintain the academic skills which are so necessary for a productive school year. In order to keep reading skills sharp during vacation, middle school students are required to fulfill a "Summer Reading Requirement."

Part of the reason for this requirement is to encourage all students to develop a life-long habit of reading—especially reading for pleasure. The more you read, the better you read.

Research shows that avid readers:

- read better, write better, and concentrate better.
- have an easier time processing new information.
- have a better chance for a successful, fulfilling adult life.
- have many interests and do well in a wide variety of subjects.
- develop an ability to understand how other people think and feel.
- acquire the ability to sift information and to understand how unrelated facts can fit into a whole.
- tend to be more flexible in their thinking and more open to new ideas.
- deal with personal problems better.

In order to fulfill this year's "Summer Reading Requirement," each student is required to read a minimum of **three** books before the beginning of the 2018-19 School Year. Since our goal is to establish reading as an integral part of each student's life, we are asking students to select books that they will enjoy. **There is not a specific required book**; however, all selections must be approved by the student's parent(s) and should be appropriate in terms of reading level and content.

Students are encouraged to read books that interest them. If you need some suggestions, please refer to our suggested "Reading List" included with this mailing and also available on RenWeb. The books on the list are generally available at the public library and at local/online bookstores and are recommended because of their value and appeal to young people.

In order to verify completion of the "Summer Reading Requirement," students must fill out the enclosed "Summer Reading Log." Record the title and author along with the date the student finished reading the book. In order to indicate approval of each book and to document that the student has actually completed his/her reading, a parent's signature is required. Students should bring the "Reading Log" to school on August 15<sup>th</sup> (the first day of school) and turn it in during **English** class, where it will count as a test grade. Students who turn in their completed log on time and who meet the minimum three-book requirement will earn a grade of 100%. Reading Logs that are incomplete and/or late will have points deducted accordingly.

Students also have the opportunity to earn Accelerated Reader Points by scoring a passing grade on the AR test for books they have read over the summer. Participation in the Accelerated Reader Program is highly encouraged; however, it is not required in Middle School.

We pray that you will have a safe and happy summer. May the new school year find our students eager to explore and develop the gifts with which they have been blessed.

Sincerely,  
SRCS Middle School English Teachers

## Suggested Summer Reading

Students must read three books before the first day of school. There is NOT a specific required book. The books on this list can give you a "starting point" in case you need some ideas for your summer reading. Parents are the final authority in determining whether a book is appropriate.

*20,000 Leagues Under the Sea* by Jules Verne  
*All Things Bright and Beautiful* by James Herriot  
*And Now Miguel* by Joseph Krumboltz  
*Diary of a Young Girl* by Anne Frank  
*Arctic Incident, The* by Eoin Colfer  
*Autobiography of Miss Jane Pittman, The* by Ernest J. Gaines  
*Bellmaker, The* by Brian Jacques  
*Black Lotus* by L. Rowland  
*Black Pear, The* by Scott O'Dell  
*Bridge of San Luis Rey, The* by Thornton Wilder  
*Bury My Heart at Wounded Knee* by Dee Brown  
*Call of the Wild, The* by Jack London  
*Captain Hook-The Adventures of a Notorious Youth* by J. Laura Hart  
*Cay, The* by Theodore Taylor  
*Cheaper by the Dozen* by Frank Gilbraith  
*Connecticut Yankee in King Arthur's Court* by Mark Twain  
*Danger on Thunder Mountain* by Lee Roddy  
*Dark is Rising, The* by Susan Cooper  
*Dealing with Dragons* by Patricia C. Wrede  
*Death Be Not Proud* by John Gunther  
*Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde* by Robert Louis Stevenson  
*Dragonwings* by Laurence Yep  
*Eternity Code, The* by Eoin Colfer  
*Good Earth, The* by Pearl S. Buck  
*Great Brain at the Academy, The* by John D. Fitzgerald  
*Great Gilly Hopkins, The* by Katherine Paterson  
*Hatchet* by Gary Paulsen  
*Heart is a Lonely Hunter, The* by Carson McCullers  
*Heidi* by Johanna Spyri  
*Hiding Place, The* by Corrie Ten Boom  
*Hobbit, The* by J.R.R. Tolkien  
*Hound of the Baskervilles, The* by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle  
*I Am Regina* by Sally Keehn  
*Ida B* by Katherine Hannigan  
*Island of the Blue Dolphins* by Scott O'Dell  
*Ivanhoe* by Sir Walter Scott  
*Jacob Have I Loved* by Katherine Paterson  
*Julie of the Wolves* by Jean Craighead  
*Kidnapped* by Robert Louis Stevenson  
*Left Behind* by Jerry Jenkins and Tim Laffaye  
*Letters From a Slave Girl* by Mary Lyons  
*Lilies of the Field* by William Barrett

*Little Women* by Louisa May Alcott  
*Lord of the Flies* by William Golding  
*Lost Colony, The* by Eoin Colfer  
*Lost Horizon* by James Hilton  
*Lottery Rose, The* by Irene Hunt  
*Marley and Me* by John Grogan  
*Misfits, The* by James Howe  
*Miracle Worker, The* by William Gibson  
*My Brother Sam is Dead* by James and Christopher Collier  
*Mystery of the Phantom Gold* by Lee Roddy  
*Night of the Twisters* by Ivy Ruckman  
*Number the Stars* by Lois Lowry  
*On the Far Side of the Mountain* by Jean Craighead George  
*One-eyed Cat* by Paula Fox  
*Opal Deception, The* by Eoin Colfer  
*Outcast of Redwall* by Brian Jacques  
*Point Blank* by Anthony Horowitz  
*Rebecca* by Daphne DuMaurier  
*Red Badge of Courage, The* by Stephen Crane  
*Redwall* by Brian Jacques  
*Rifles for Katie* by Harold Keith  
*Road From Home, The* by David Kherdian  
*Roar of the Crowd* by Rich Wallace  
*Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry* by Mildred Taylor  
*Scorpia* by Anthony Horowitz  
*Secret Garden, The* by Frances Burnett  
*Slave Dancer, The* by Paula Fox  
*Sons from Afar* by Cynthia Voigt  
*Souder* by William Armstrong  
*Stormbreaker* by Anthony Horowitz  
*Summer of My German Soldier* by Bette Greene  
*The Hiding Place* by Corrie Ten Boom  
*Travel Team* by Mike Lupica  
*Treasure Island* by Robert Louis Stevenson  
*Tree Grows in Brooklyn, A* by Betty Smith  
*Voyage of the Dawn Treader, The* by C.S. Lewis  
*War of the Worlds, The* by H.G. Wells  
*Winter Room, The* by Gary Paulsen  
*Wizard of Earthsea, A* by Ursula LeGuin  
*Wrinkle in Time, A* by Madeline L'Engle  
*Year without Michael, The* by Susan Beth Pfeffer  
*Yearling, The* by Marjorie Rawlings  
*Young Fu of the Upper Yangtze* by Elizabeth Lewis

**The following Christian authors have written numerous books that appeal to teens.**

Terri Blackstock  
Ted Dekker  
Karen Kingsbury  
Jerry Jenkins/Tim LaHaye

C.S. Lewis  
Max Lucado  
Bill Myers  
Frank Peretti  
Francine Rivers  
Joni Eareckson-Tada  
Brodie and Brock Theone

