



May 2009

Dear 8th Grade Parent/Guardian,

With the end of the school year quickly upon us, we are making plans for summer vacation activities. However, while the summer months are a welcome opportunity for fun and relaxation for all, the break from academic activities often causes students to experience a lag in learning upon returning to school in the fall.

In an effort to lessen this effect, ACES is requiring incoming sixth, seventh, and eighth graders to read books from the attached reading list. Credit will be awarded for all accomplished assignments. This program aims to help reduce the lag in academics by providing incentives for students to read over the summer.

Students must read four (4) age-appropriate books from the list (on the back of this letter) over the summer vacation and write a short summary, including a description of the characters, the setting (time and place) of the story, explanation of the plot (including conflict and theme), and a personal reaction to what they like or dislike about the book. Each report must be written in pen and in cursive OR typed (double space, 12-point Times New Roman font only). Students must put their full name and grade on the top of each assignment.

We hope that you will encourage your child to read during the summer months. Please look over your child's reading list and remind your child that reading is important, interactive, and fun! We hope that you will join us in this important effort and assist your child in these summer reading activities.

Thank you.

Mandi Eizenbaum
Middle School Language Arts
Team Leader

Suggested Summer Reading List Entering 8th grade

***** All 8th graders are REQUIRED to read one of the following two books:

1. *The Chosen* by Chaim Potok OR
2. *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* by Samuel Clemens, and then write a report on the novel.

Then, students must choose three from the following list and write a report for each:

1. *Across Five Aprils* - Irene Hunt
2. *The Contender* - Robert Lipsyte
3. *Jubilee* - Margaret Walker
4. *The Westing Game* - Ellen Raskin
5. *Johnny Tremain* - Esther Forbes
6. *2001 A Space Odyssey* - Arthur Clarke
7. *Little Women* - Louisa May Alcott
8. *Joyful Noise* - Paul Fleishman
9. *Of Mice and Men* - John Steinbeck
10. *Chernowitz!* - Fran Arrick

**Please, do not read books that are not on this recommended/suggested reading list!!!!