

Summer 2009

Welcome to Eighth Grade!

Dear Parent/Guardian:

Summer vacation for children is a time to relax, spend time with family, go camping and engage in many other activities. It is important, however, to challenge the mind of your student continuously. Students who read daily throughout the summer improve their vocabulary, understanding and rate of reading. In August, students who have been reading during summer vacation come back to school ready to start where they left off.

Summer reading should be entertaining and there is a wonderful selection of books available at the Kent Memorial Library. The eighth grade Language Arts teachers have compiled an excellent list of books that will appeal to middle school students and is included with the June report card. Mrs. Vincent, our media specialist, has also compiled a pamphlet listing book selections appropriate for middle school students.

The Suffield Board of Education has approved a required summer reading assignment for students entering grades six through eight. Students are required to read the novels over the summer and should be prepared to engage in an academic activity upon their return to school. Our goal is to have one hundred percent participation. **The requirements and directions are on the back of this letter.**

Have a safe and happy summer vacation.

Sincerely,

Diane Sperger
Language Arts Coordinator K-12

Grade 8 Summer Reading Requirements

Surviving the Applewhites – Stephanie S. Tolan
The Golden Compass – Philip Pullman
City of Ember – Jeanne DePrau
Letters from Rifka – Karen Hesse
Guts – Gary Paulsen
Among the Hidden – Margaret Haddix
Ender's Game – Orson Scott Card
**The Diary of Anne Frank* – Anne Frank
**Little Women* – Lousia May Alcott
**A Farewell to Arms* – Ernest Hemingway
**Kidnapped* – Robert Louis Stevenson
**20,000 Leagues Under the Sea* – Jules Vern
**The Hound of the Baskervilles* – Sir Arthur Conan Doyle
**Pawn of Prophecy* – David Eddings

Language Arts students will be expected to read two books (three if accelerated) over the summer. One book may be self selected and one (or two from the starred group, if accelerated) should be chosen from the list of title above.

When the students return to school in the fall, they will participate in an in-school writing assignment that will test their knowledge of literature based on the readings they did over the summer.

The writing assignment will consist of the following questions:

1. Compare and contrast a character from a book you read this summer with a character from another book you've read. Identify the books and be specific in your references to the different characters.
2. What makes one of the books you read an example of good literature? Provide at least three examples from the novel.
3. Discuss a major conflict in the book and how this conflict affected a change of one of the main characters.