

June 1, 2023

Dear Middle School Students and Parents:

As you begin vacation, thoughts of the 2023-2024 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 **two** books before the beginning of the 2023-24 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.

After reading each book the student must complete one of the attached Summer Reading Book Report Choices. There are four choices of book reports. The students are required to read two books and complete **two different** book reports from the choices. The book reports are due Aug. 18, the first day of school. They must be brought to English class and will count as **two separate quiz grades**. Book reports brought in after Aug. 18, will be counted as late, and points will be deducted accordingly. Within the directions of each book report is the Grading Rubric that will be used to grade each report. Please encourage your student to refer to the rubric. **Print the Grading Rubric**, put the student's name on the rubric, and tape it to the book report. The teacher will remove the rubric from the book report to grade it and return the rubric to the student. If no rubric is attached to the book report, the grade will be dropped one letter grade.

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