

THE SCOTCH PLAINS-FANWOOD PUBLIC SCHOOLS
EVERGREEN AVENUE AND CEDAR STREET
SCOTCH PLAINS, NEW JERSEY 07076

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Dear Students/Parents/Guardians:

A core belief of our district, adopted during strategic planning, states: “We believe children learn best when they are given individual attention and high expectations.” As the Language Arts department strove to develop the summer reading lists, this statement provided the foundation for our discussions. The result is a list that is both rigorous and flexible to student interest.

This summer, all students in grades 6 through 8 will be required to read two books. The first book must be selected from the appropriate grade level list, which can be found on the back of this letter. The second book will be a FREE READ, allowing students the opportunity to self select a title of their choice.

Students entering high school, grades 9-11, will be required to read a selected text that will “jump start” the curriculum and prepare students to engage in conversations about the literature course they are entering. The titles have been selected from the books that students read during the course of the year. Incoming seniors will write a rough draft of a college essay, while incoming AP students will read a selected text and partake in an additional assignment. Students’ current teachers will provide the specifics about these assignments.

Each of our town libraries will post the reading list and create a display of their available books to support our summer reading initiative. Local bookstores have also received copies of the list. When students return to school in September, all language arts teachers will require a writing assignment. This writing piece will specifically focus on the summer reading and will count as the first major grade.

To best prepare for this writing piece, it is recommended that students choose a means of recording their thoughts and reactions while reading. This may include creating a reading log, using post-it notes, writing a summary at the end of each chapter, or jotting down/recording comments in the margins if they own the book. Whatever strategy a student finds most effective is the best for her/him.

While planning for the two months out of school, we hope you will create some time to continue fostering the love of reading in your children. Visiting your town library or local bookstore to explore books and authors will add another layer of enjoyment to summer activities.

If you have any questions regarding the summer reading requirement, please contact Jocelyn Dumaresq, the Language Arts Supervisor, at (908) 889-8600 Ext. 328 or through email at jdumaresq@spfk12.org.

Sincerely,

The Scotch Plains-Fanwood Language Arts Department

Summer Reading Philosophy

Summer reading is meant to support and enrich language arts skills, expose students to quality literature, and foster a love of reading.

Scotch Plains-Fanwood Summer Reading Lists and Abbreviated Assignments

Entering 6th grade

Crispin, by Avi
Kira-Kira, Cynthia Kadohata
The Thief Lord, by Cornelia Funke
Esperanza Rising, Pam Munoz Ryan
Old Yeller, Fred Gipson

Entering 7th grade

The Watsons Go to Birmingham,
Christopher Paul Curtis
Fever, 1793, by Laurie Halse Anderson
Anne Frank Remembered, Miep Gies
Elsewhere, Gabrielle Zevin
Travel Team, Mike Lupica

Entering 8th grade

The Hunger Games, by Suzanne Collins
Fallen Angels, by Walter Dean Myers
Make Lemonade, Virginia Euwer Wolff
Cuba 15, by Nancy Osa
Ender's Game, by Orson Scott Card

Entering 9th grade

A Separate Peace, by John Knowles

Entering 10th grade

A Tree Grows in Brooklyn, by Betty Smith

Entering 11th grade

Frankenstein, by Mary Shelley

Entering 12th grade

After reading a few short selections of prose and poetry, students will draft a college essay.

Entering 11th grade AP Language ONLY

Read one newspaper article a week and maintain a writing log on the rhetoric, or writing style, of that piece and...

(Read ONE)

On Writing, by Stephen King
Blink or *Outliers* or *The Tipping Point*, by Malcolm Gladwell (choose one)
Columbine, by Dave Cullen
Fast Food Nation: The Dark Side of the All-American Meal, by Eric Schlosser
The Overachievers: The Secret Lives of Driven Kids, by Alexandra Robbins
Silent Spring, by Rachel Carson
Moneyball: The Art of Winning an Unfair Game, by Michael Lewis
The Big Test: The Secret History of the American Meritocracy, by Nicholas Lehman
The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks, by Rebecca Skloot
Amusing Ourselves to Death: Public Discourse in the Age of Show Business, by Neil Postman

Entering 12th grade AP Literature ONLY

Complete the college essay assignment and...

Read any ONE title from the lists provided by the Scotch Plain Library: Man Booker, Pulitzer, Penn Faulkner (winners or finalists)