

Student entering Grade 8 2017-2018

Saint Jerome School
250 Wall Street
West Long Branch, NJ 07764

GRADE EIGHT – Students entering grade 8 for the 2017 – 2018 School Year
September 2017

Dear Parents:

This year’s summer reading follows the Common Core Standards for English/Language Arts that the Diocese follows. These standards are put in place to help students become ready for high school, college, and careers. The standards state, “To become high school, college, and career ready, students must grapple with works of exceptional craft and thought whose range extends across genres, cultures, and centuries.”

Each student is expected to read two books. The starred (*) book on the list is **required** and a test will be given on that book the first full day of school. The test will be a multiple choice/short answer test on the content of the book. A second book should be chosen from the list to be summarized at home following the attached instructions. The report and test will count toward the first trimester ELA grade.

In addition, students will have to keep a summer reading log. Studies show that students who read over the summer hold onto core reading skills and do better at the start of the new school year. Students should keep track of the number of minutes they read each week on the reading log provided. This will be collected along with the book report.

I encourage you and your child to visit the library frequently. The reading of these and other books is a way to establish good reading habits, build a strong vocabulary, and improve Language Arts skills.

Thank you for your cooperation.

Sincerely,
Mrs. Heisler

* * * * *

I have read the letter regarding summer reading.

Parent’s Signature _____

Student’s Signature _____

Please return to Mrs. Heisler by **Wednesday, June 7th**.

**Saint Jerome School
Summer Reading List
Grade 8 for 2017-2018**

1. All students are required to read two books. The tested book listed below and one other book. Students will be tested on their knowledge of the characters, the plot, the setting, and the conflicts that the characters face. There will be no critical thinking questions on the test.

****The Giver* by Lois Lowry is required for students entering Grade 8. Students will be given a test on this book in September.**

2. Summarize one book from the list on theme or typed (instructions on the format are on the other side of the paper). Remember to summarize means to discuss only **major** events and characters, including the ending. Include a description of the problem or conflict presented in the novel, and be sure to include the 5 W's (who, when, where, what, why). Use **two** paragraphs in the summary. A paragraph should be 7 - 10 sentences in length. Write on one side of theme only. Do not skip lines. Pages should be stapled. Book reports can also be typed on the computer using 12 point/Times New Roman font. If reports are done on the computer, be sure to double space. This will be collected on Tuesday, September 6, 2017.

Choose one book to read for at home book report – see written summary instructions on next page.

Monster
by Walter Dean Myers

Chains
by Laurie Halse Anderson

Homeless Bird
by Gloria Whelan

The Boundless
by Kenneth Oppel

Chasing Lincoln's Killer
by James L. Swanson

Use this format for your summer book report

Written Summary:

Write a summary of the book you read. The first paragraph should include the title (underline title), author, setting (**when-** give date if stated otherwise use past, present, or future, and **where**), main characters and brief description of main characters, and the problem or goal faced by the main character(s).

The second paragraph should include a summary of the major plot events told in order from beginning to the middle to the end. Remember that the plot is what happened in the book. Be sure to include the solution to the problem or how the story ends.

Guidelines

- Do not rewrite the original piece.
- Keep your summary short.
- Use your own wording.
- Refer to the central and main ideas of the book.
- Read with who, what, when, where, why and how questions in mind.
- Do not put in your opinion of book in your summary.
- Do not include unimportant details.
- Do not repeat information.