

Carlisle Middle School Summer Reading Program

Dear Parents/Guardians of **Seventh Grade Students**,

The English Department of the Carlisle Area School District has expanded the required summer reading program that now exists in the high school to include the middle schools. This summer (2004) current sixth graders who are moving to seventh grade will participate in the program.

The procedures for the program are as follows:

1. **Students will be asked to choose one of four pre-selected books to read.**
2. **During the summer, the students will read the book.** Student copies may be picked up at the middle school offices over the summer months. Even though these copies are available to the students, we strongly encourage each student to get his or her own copy of the book at a bookstore or public library.
3. **Within the first two weeks of school, the students will be evaluated on the reading of their selection.** The grade will count for the first marking period. Keeping a reading log is recommended.

Book Selections

1. ***The Barn***, by Avi, is a survival story set in the Oregon Territory in the 1850's. A family of children find themselves on their own without adults to care for them.
2. ***Because of Winn Dixie***, by Kate DiCamillo, tells the story of Opal, a ten-year-old girl who has just moved to a new town with her preacher father. Opal befriends a large, ugly, but lovable dog who helps her settle in and make friends.
3. ***When Zachary Beaver Came to Town***, by Kimberly Willis Holt, is a coming of age story with an unusual set of characters that inhabit the town of Antler, Texas. Nothing ever seemed to happen in Antelope until Zachary Beaver, the world's fattest boy, arrived.
4. ***Among the Hidden***, by Margaret Petersen Haddix, is set in future society in which families are allowed to have only two children. The main character Luke is a "shadow child," a third child forbidden by the Population Police.

Our purpose in starting this addition to our English program in the middle schools is to encourage students to continue their reading progress and enjoyment even when school is not in session. Fostering reading is an important goal of all educators. Extending the existing high school program to the middle school level is an excellent way to provide for continuity and attainment of that goal.

Sincerely,
Middle School English Department

Carlisle Middle School Summer Reading Program

Dear Parents/Guardians of **Eighth Grade Students**,

The English Department of the Carlisle Area School District has expanded the required summer reading program that now exists in the high school to include the middle schools. This summer (2004) seventh graders who are entering eighth grade in August of 2004 should follow the procedures outlined below.

The procedures for the program are as follows:

- 1. Students will be asked to choose one of two pre-selected books to read.**
- 2. During the summer, the students will read the book.** Student copies may be picked up at the middle school offices over the summer months. Even though these copies are available to the students, we strongly encourage each student to get his or her own copy of the book at a bookstore or public library.
- 3. Within the first two weeks of school, the students will take an objective test on their selection.** The test grade will count as a **major** grade for the first marking period. Keeping a reading log to review before the test is recommended.
- 4. Extra credit will be given to any student who reads both selections.**

Book Selections

1. The first selection, ***I Am Regina***, by Sally M. Keehn, is a novel of historical fiction based upon the true story of a Pennsylvania girl captured and raised by American Indians.
2. The second selection, ***Jayhawker***, by Patricia Beatty, also historical fiction, tells the tale of a young man during the Civil War times of Bloody Kansas.

Our purpose in starting this addition to our English program in the middle schools is to encourage students to continue their reading progress and enjoyment even when school is not in session. Fostering reading is an overriding goal of all educators. Extending the existing high school program to the middle school level is an excellent way to provide for continuity and attainment of that goal.

Sincerely,
Middle School English Department