Spring 2018

Dear CMS Parents and Students:

Once again the school year is winding down and the weather is warming up. Summer is just around the corner, and with that I am pleased to present our summer reading program for 2018. As our district literacy initiative has evolved, so has our program.

This year our sixth grade assignment requires students to complete a book review and deliver a short presentation. Students may choose any book they like from the ten selections we have offered.

Similar book presentations will be conducted by our seventh and eighth grade students. While they will not be given a listing of books to choose from, they are free to choose any book they desire, as long as it fits within their appropriate grade-level language arts theme.

Details for all CMS Summer Reading Assignments can be found on the Collingswood Public Schools homepage. Please contact me with any questions or concerns you may have.

Thank you, and have a great summer.

Sincerely,

David A. Olivieri  
CPS Supervisor of Language Arts & Social Studies 6-12  
856-962-5701 x6236  
dolivieri@collsk12.org

The Collingswood Middle School community provides each student with a supportive and challenging environment that promotes responsible decision-making and life-long learning.
CMS Summer Reading

In preparation for the 2018-19 school year you will be asked to prepare a summer reading presentation. The purpose of this assignment is to help you identify key details from your novel, and use them to develop a detailed summary. This is an essential skill that many middle school students struggle with, and our goal is to help you to be more successful in this area. In addition, you will have the freedom to select a book of your choice; however, depending on your grade level, it must fall under one of the following themes:

Incoming 7th Grade Students - Self-Identity and Self-Discovery (Please avoid reading: The Skin I’m In, Flipped, The Watsons Go to Birmingham – 1963, Roll of Thunder Hear My Cry, The Fat Boy Chronicles, and Guts (Non-fiction)) --- You will not receive credit for the summer reading assignment if you select one of these titles!

Incoming 8th Grade Students - Coming of Age (Please avoid reading: After Ever After, Drums Girls and Dangerous Pie, To Kill a Mockingbird, The House of the Scorpion, Friedrich, Lord of the Flies, and Three Cups of Tea (Non-fiction) --- You will not receive credit for the summer reading assignment if you select one of these titles!

Assignment:

a) Select an independent reading book that fits within the theme for the appropriate grade level.

b) Read the book, and create a presentation utilizing one of the free online presentation platforms suggested on the website included below (Strongly Recommended Platforms = Google Slides).

c) You must include the following information and analysis in your presentation:

- Title page with author's name, publisher, number of pages, Lexile (if available), and your personal information (name, grade, etc.)
- Plot page with a definition of plot and how it can be used to analyze a story. (i.e.) What is plot? How can it assist a reader in interpreting a book?
- Plot analysis with one page for each of the following sections (Must include a definition of the plot element (i.e.) what does the term exposition mean? AND an example from your book. Please refer to the guiding questions next to each plot element below to determine the kind of information that you need to include for each section of your book.)

1) Exposition - Where does the story take place (main setting)? When does it occur (time period)? Who are the main characters?

2) Rising Action - What are the major conflicts/problems that the main character(s) experience(s)?

3) Climax – What is the most exciting point of the book and how does it affect the outcome of the story?

4) Falling Action – How is the main conflict/problem solved?

5) Resolution – What happens to the characters at the end of the story?
Theme page with an explanation of how their book fits within the appropriate grade level theme (i.e.) 7th Grade = Self-Identity and Self-Discovery. 8th Grade = Coming of Age.

Guiding Questions:

a) How does the main character demonstrate that they are dynamic in nature? In other words, how do they grow mentally and emotionally as they move through the story? Explain/Cite Evidence

b) How does the main character know him or herself better at the end of the story? Explain/Cite Evidence

c) What is a lesson that the main character learned through the events of the story that proved that they changed for the better or demonstrated that they have matured as a human being? Explain/Cite Evidence

Justification of selection with regard to the level of difficulty. In other words, why do you feel that your selection was appropriately challenging for you? Consider the following areas to formulate your response:

a) Lexile Level

b) Complexity of Vocabulary/Sentence Structure

c) Reading Outside of Preferred Genre

d) Message/Theme Implied Versus Being Directly Stated

e) Previous Experience with the Author

Your presentations will take place in class and will be assessed using the rubric on the following page:
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Comments:

Score Total:  
Alternate Assignment Approval (Teacher’s Initials):  
Circle One: Poster/ Video/ Other  

Grade:  
Middle School Summer Reading Suggestions
Prepared by: Lynn Pascale, Librarian
updated Spring 2018

Self-Discovery and Self-Identity (Grade Seven)

*The Thing About Jellyfish* by Ali Benjamin (CRF)

*Fish in a Tree* by Lynda Mullaly Hunt (CRF)

*Soar* by Joan Bauer (sports fiction)

*PAX* by Sarah Pennypacker (hard to categorize --- “A viscerally affecting story of war, loss, and the power of friendship”)

*Stella by Starlight* by Sharon Draper (Af-Am. historical fiction)

*Goodbye Stranger* by Rebecca Stead (CRF)

*American Ace* by Marilyn Nelson (novel in verse)

*Popular: A Memoir: Vintage Wisdom for a Modern Geek* by Maya van Wagenen

*Brown Girl Dreaming* by Jacqueline Woodson 8 Sources of Light Margaret McMullin (historical fiction)

*Game Changer* by Margaret Peterson Haddix (sports fiction)

*The Lucy Variations* by Sara Zarr (CRF)

*You Are My Only* by Beth Kephart (CRF)

*Schooled* by Gordon Korman (CRF)

*Crossover* by Kwame Alexander (sports fiction/novel in verse)

*The One and Only Ivan* by Katherine Applegate (fantasy?)

*Lions of Little Rock* by Kristin Levine (historical fiction)

*Loser* by Jerry Spinelli (CRF)

*Sparrow Road* by Sheila O’Connor (CRF)
See you at Harry's by Jo Knowles (CRF)

Counting by 7s by Holly Goldberg Sloan (CRF)

Apartment 1986 by Lisa Papademetriou

Coming of Age Stories (Grade Eight)

Summerlost by Ally Condie (Contemporary Realistic Fiction (CRF))

One for the Murphys by Lynda Mullaly Hunt (CRF)

The Seventh Most Important Thing by Shelley Pearsall (CRF)*** HIGHLY RECOMMENDED

The Hired Girl by Laura Amy Schlitz (historical fiction)

Whippoorwill by Joseph Menniger (CRF)

Booked by Kwame Alexander (novel in verse)

All the Way Home by Patricia Reilly Giff (historical fiction)

Hokey Pokey by Jerry Spinelli (fantasy)

Seraphina by Rachel Hartman (fantasy)

Same Sun Here by Silas House (CRF)

Safekeeping by Karen Hesse (CRF, perhaps dystopian)

Peak by Roland Smith (adventure)

Edge of Nowhere by John Smelcer (survival)

Just Ella by Margaret Peterson Haddix (fantasy)

Alice, I Think by Susan Juby (realistic fiction)

Blackwater by Eve Bunting (realistic fiction)

Keeper by Mal Peet (sports fiction)

Bang! by Sharon Flake (realistic fiction)
Wolf Hollow by Lauren Wolk (historical fiction)*-Highly Recommended!(also on 6th grade list)

The Wild Girls by Pat Murphy (CRF)

Ms. Bixby's Last Days by John David Anderson (CRF)

Brett McCarthy: Work in Progress by Maria Padian (CRF)