

June 3, 2011

Dear Students and Parents,

On behalf of the Christ the King Middle School, I would like to introduce you to our **Summer Reading Program** for the summer of 2011. Reading remains one of life's great pleasures. It is also a rich source of educational benefit. Research shows that avid readers:

- Read better, write better, and concentrate better
 - Are quicker to see subtleties
 - 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
- Furthermore, testing services remind us that the main guarantee of success on college entrance tests is "reading, reading, reading!"

Because building the habit of reading is both pleasurable and enriching, Christ the King students need to take time over the summer to read books chosen by their teachers. **In middle school, I ask students to read at least two books from the summer reading list, which is on the back of this letter. Rising 7th and 8th graders need to read these two books before returning to school.** I strongly suggest that you use arbookfind.com to look up these books with your student. This will help you to choose books from the list that are an appropriate reading and interest level. I also encourage you to preview the books to make sure you are comfortable with the content.

When school begins in August, each student will be asked to complete a project pertaining to his or her summer reading choices and will take AR quizzes on the books. The best way to prepare for these activities is to **read actively** by taking notes and by talking about the books with friends and parents. For some of the books on the list, Scholastic provides several wonderful activities that will significantly improve retention at the following websites:

- 7th grade: <http://scholastic.com/bookfairs/teachers/connections/grade7.asp>
8th grade: <http://scholastic.com/bookfairs/teachers/connections/grade8.asp>

I strongly suggest that students use an index card as a book mark while reading each chapter and keep notes on the index card while reading to summarize the main points of the chapter (start a new card for each chapter). When they have completed the book, they will have notes for the entire book, which will help them review for AR tests when they get back to school.

I hope that students find the books represented here both interesting and challenging. I look forward to hearing your observations about them at the opening of school.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Pairett

7th Grade - Read **TWO** (or more) books that are of an appropriate reading and interest level. Choose from the following books:

1. Saint Dominic and the Rosary...by: Beebe, Catherine
2. Saint Francis of Assisi: Gentle Revolutionary...by: Alves, Mary Emmanuel
3. Murder on the Orient Express...by: Christie, Agatha
4. My Brother Sam Is Dead...by: Collier, James Lincoln
5. Of Mice and Men...by: Steinbeck, John
6. Saint Juan Diego and Our Lady of Guadalupe...by: Nobisso, Josephine
7. The Secret Garden (Unabridged)...by: Burnett, Frances Hodgson
8. The Transall Saga...by: Paulsen, Gary
9. The Yearling...by: Rawlings, Marjorie
10. Saint Nicholas...by: Tompert, Ann
11. Saint Pio of Pietrelcina: Rich in Love...by: Bertanzetti, Eileen Dunn
12. Scat...by: Hiaasen, Carl
13. Ender's Game...by: Card, Orson Scott
14. Aquamarine...by: Hoffman, Alice
15. The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn...by: Twain, Mark
16. Anne of Green Gables (Unabridged)...by: Montgomery, L.M.
17. Fahrenheit 451...by: Bradbury, Ray
18. Maximum Ride: School's Out—Forever...by: Patterson, James
19. Maximum Ride: The Angel Experiment...by: Patterson, James
20. The Jungle Book (Books I & II)...by: Kipling, Rudyard
21. Fallen Angels...by: Myers, Walter Dean
22. Hatchet...by: Paulsen, Gary
23. Chains... by: Laurie Halse Anderson
24. Life as We Knew It ... by: Susan Pfeffer
25. Schooled... by: Gordon Korman
26. The Hunger Games...by: Suzanne Collins
27. Stargirl...by: Jerry Spinelli
28. To Kill a Mockingbird...by: Harper Lee

8th Grade - Read **TWO** (or more) books that are of an appropriate reading and interest level. Choose from the following books:

1. The Princess Bride...by Goldman, William
2. The Red Badge of Courage (Unabridged)...by: Crane, Stephen
3. Saint Dominic and the Rosary...by: Beebe, Catherine
4. The Light in the Forest...by: Richter, Conrad
5. Little Women (Book I and II) (Unabridged)...by: Alcott, Louisa May
6. The Pigman...by: Zindel, Paul
7. Saint Joan: A Chronicle Play in Six Scenes...by: Shaw, George Bernard
8. Sunrise Over Fallujah...by: Myers, Walter Dean
9. The Time Machine (Unabridged)...by: Wells, H.G.
10. Watership Down...by: Adams, Richard
11. Saint Joan: The Girl Soldier...by: de Wohl, Louis
12. Saint Pio of Pietrelcina: Rich in Love...by: Bertanzetti, Eileen Dunn
13. A Separate Peace...by: Knowles, John
14. Anne of Green Gables (Unabridged)...by: Montgomery, L.M.
15. The Call of the Wild...by: London, Jack
16. Across Five Aprils...by: Hunt, Irene
17. 1984...by: Orwell, George
18. 20,000 Leagues Under the Sea (Unabridged)...by: Verne, Jules
19. Flowers for Algernon...by: Keyes, Daniel
20. The House on Mango Street...by: Cisneros, Sandra
21. Joan of Arc: Warrior Saint...by: Williams, Jay
22. The Hobbit...by: Tolkien, J.R.R.
23. Hatchet...by: Paulsen, Gary
24. The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy...by: Adams, Douglas
25. The Book Thief...by Markus Zusak
26. Nothing But the Truth...by Avi
27. What I Saw and How I Lied...by Judy Blundell
28. Copper Sun...by Sharon M. Draper