

Dear Parent/Guardian,

Instilling a love for reading is one of the greatest contributions we can make to a child's education. Research shows that students who read "widely and frequently" are higher achievers than students who do not. This leads to large gains in reading, writing, spelling, grammar and every other subject area.

The middle school independent reading program provides students with vast experiences with reading. Students are provided with freedom of choice, and many students fall in love with reading right before our eyes.

Students are in control of their independent reading on a daily basis. They hold book talks with classmates and friends on a regular basis. They participate in book blogging and virtual discussions. ELA classroom libraries are continuously stocked with popular book titles and the school library now offers electronic copies of popular titles to download onto reading devices. Even the master schedule is designed to ignite a love for reading; students are given a daily 19-minute block of time to read the novels that they love. In addition to this time, students also read for a minimum of 20-30 minutes per night outside of school.

WMS will again be offering a summer book club option for students. Please see the menu, flyer, and check the school website for more information and signups!

The summer reading challenge is designed to continue your child's habit of daily reading. Please speak to your child about this program and encourage them to continue reading..

Happy Reading!
The ELA Team

6th Grade	7th Grade	8th Grade
Alice Bowser (bowser.a@woodstown.org)	Brandy Ragan (ragan.b@woodstown.org)	Jennifer Kelly (kelly.jd@woodstown.org)

In 1945, the average American student between the ages of six and 14 had a written vocabulary of 25,000 words. Today, that vocabulary has shrunk to about 10,000 words.

~Ralph Fletcher, *What a Writer Needs*

**Wide reading is the single best way to improve your vocabulary.
~Nagy and Anderson**

Summer Reading 2023

Woodstown Middle School

“Children and teenagers need to read during the summer months to maintain current reading levels. Reading just 4-5 books during the summer can prevent a decline in a student’s fall reading scores.”

~James Kim, Harvard University

All WMS students are encouraged to read **many** books this summer. There is a strong correlation between reading regularly for pleasure (any reading...really, ANY reading, as long as it’s a habit) and academic success, including building vocabulary, an understanding of sentence structure, and an increase in stamina for reading harder texts. It is also clear that the more you read, the better you write. So, this summer, **don’t stop READING!**

Expectations...

1. Read at least 2 books of your choice. Be sure to keep track of all the books you read!
2. Using the Reading Response Option Board, pick 2 assignments (one for each book) to complete. **Due September 8, 2023**

Would you like to join a book club ?

Summer book groups= 1 staff member + 5-15 students/parents + chat about the summer reading book = an alternative way to earn credit for summer reading.

WMS book club choices (posted on school website June 13th) are open to students entering grades 6-8. This is such a great way to read! You can share in discussing your thinking with others. The books listed have been chosen with great care and the leaders are sure you will enjoy these books! We tried to select a wide variety of interests and reading levels.

Book Club Expectations:

- Students will sign up for the book groups on their summer reading sheet. Sign ups will end on June 30th. Click here for [SELECTIONS](#) and here for [SIGN UP](#).
- You will agree to read the book by the assigned session.
- You will agree to attend the book club meeting. (If for some reason you can’t make the meeting, be sure to use good manners and contact either the book leader (staff member) or Mrs. Kelly (kelly.jd@woodstown.org)
- Be ready to come with your thoughts about the reading. You will get summer reading credit for your *attendance and participation* in discussion.

Remember: The volume of your reading impacts NJSLA and SAT scores, future academic success, and most importantly, the development of empathy and understanding for people in situations unlike your own. Reading is food for the soul. Don’t think of this as homework...think of it as building a reading life that is as individual as you are!

Reading Response Board

<p>Create a fictional interview video with the main character or the author where you play the character/author and dress the part. Upload your final video into your Google Classroom, so you can share it with me in the fall.</p>	<p>Create four character trading cards using the digital tool of your choice or drawn neatly by hand. Remember to include the character's name, an image, and several interesting "statistics" about the character.</p>	<p>Write at least three diary entries from the point of view of one of the story's main characters that they would have written before, during, or after the book's events. Remember that the character's thoughts and feelings are very important in a diary.</p>
<p>Create a timeline of at least 6 major events from your book. This can be an interactive digital timeline or drawn by hand. If digital, include links to additional information, images, videos, etc. that show the importance of each event. If hand-drawn, briefly describe the importance of each event.</p>	<p>Create a Google Slideshow identifying four connections from the story.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Text-Text: make a connection between this story and another story you have read. 2. Text-Self: make a connection between this story and you. 3. Text -Movie: make a connection between this story and a movie you have seen. 4. Text-World: make a connection between this story and something that has happened or is happening in the world. 	<p>Create a new book jacket for the novel. Use the digital tool of your choice or draw it neatly by hand. Remember to include a brief summary of the book, a little about the author, and an eye-catching cover image.</p>
<p>Attend one of the WMS July Book Club Meetings</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Read one of the books 2. Attend the 30-45 min online discussion 3. Participate and share your thinking during the discussion. 	<p>Attend one of the WMS August Book Club Meetings</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Read one of the books 2. Attend the 30-45 min online discussion 3. Participate and share your thoughts during the discussion. 	<p>Create a 2-minute video book trailer using the digital tool of your choice. Remember that you are trying to get other students interested in reading your book. Upload your final video into your Google Classroom, so you can share it with me in the fall.</p>