



School District of South Orange and Maplewood

COLUMBIA HIGH SCHOOL

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English Language Arts Department

"We read to know we are not alone." ~C.S. Lewis

June 3, 2014

Dear Parents/Guardians:

Summer is soon upon us and with it comes a break from assigned reading during the school year and the freedom to make selections that truly appeal to readers, based on their own interests. Even more, some readers may choose one large book that may take the entire summer to read, select various books from the same author, or perhaps engage in the reading of a series. The possibilities are endless.

This summer, The English Language Arts department encourages all students to explore the vast selections of literature, from young adult selections to classics to contemporary nonfiction, to name a few possibilities. Of course, while reading, students may choose to annotate the text or take notes, but, essentially, the assignment is to read for pure enjoyment! *Advanced Placement courses in the English Language Arts department have specific summer reading assignments.

Local librarians have terrific suggestions for students of all ages, reading abilities, and interest levels. In addition, some links to reading lists for all students are:

- The *New York Times* Bestsellers (fiction, nonfiction, young adult)
<http://www.nytimes.com/best-sellers-books/overview.html>
- Amazon's Summer Reading List for Teens and Young Adults
http://www.amazon.com/b/ref=amb_link_416339702_2?ie=UTF8&node=9040854011&pf_rd_m=ATVPDKIKX0DER&pf_rd_s=merchandised-search-leftnav&pf_rd_r=0TJ393CXF8EKM2HKZ5TP&pf_rd_t=101&pf_rd_p=1811799742&pf_rd_i=9014217011

An optional summer reading contest is:

- The *New York Times* Annual Summer Reading Contest
http://learning.blogs.nytimes.com/2014/05/01/our-fifth-annual-new-york-times-summer-reading-contest/comment-page-1/?_php=true&_type=blogs&_r=0

Enjoy a safe summer filled with rich reading experiences!

Sincerely,

Janine T. Gregory
English Language Arts Supervisor
Grades 6-12