

Thomas W. Pyle Middle School

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Mr. Michael J. Zarchin, Principal

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Dear Incoming Sixth Grader:

We look forward to seeing you in our classes next school year. In order for you to maintain and strengthen your basic language skills, we urge you to read and write as much as you can during your months away from school.

In Montgomery County Public Schools, summer reading has been an expected practice in middle and high schools and an encouraged practice in elementary schools since 1998. The ability to read is crucial to an individual's success in school and on the job. Reading is a life-long skill that a person needs to succeed not only as a student but also as a worker and a citizen. Perhaps even more importantly, reading opens the world to a person through periodicals, textbooks, and literature. By reading, individuals have the opportunity to learn about people, times, regions, and ideas that they may never actually encounter in life. Reading can also bring a lifetime of pleasure and learning.

Research strongly suggests that reading, like most skills, improves with practice and decreases when we don't engage in it for even a short time. Therefore, consistent with our commitment to prepare all students for success during school and after graduation, we continue in MCPS to expect all students to read during the summer.

For you to be better prepared for English and reading in the 6th grade, read at least one fiction book from the attached "6th Grade Summer Reading List." The book you choose will be used to complete an assignment when you come to school in August. You should also read at least one other book of your choosing.

Visiting your library and discussing your choice(s) with the librarian is another method to use in your search for appropriate books to read. Book stores give you the opportunity to examine many books and to locate those which interest you.

Assignment: Read one novel from the list on the back of this paper and one other novel of your choosing.

For the novel from the list, record the title and author. As you read, jot down notes about the **setting** (where and when the story takes place), the **characters** (appearance and actions), and the **plot** (problem, main events, and resolution). Take enough notes so you will remember your book in August. You will use the notes to complete an assignment. We hope you will read other books as well. Keep a list of the titles and authors on the sheet attached to this letter.

Remember: come to orientation; find some good summer reading; and enjoy the books and your summer.

Sincerely yours,

Michael Zarchin
Principal

Celia Harper
English Resource Teacher
Pyle Middle School
6th Grade Summer Reading List

Melissa Griffith
Reading Specialist

****Many of the books below are a part of a series. We encourage you to enjoy all of the books in each series.**

Balliet, Blue

Chasing Vermeer (770L)

The Wright 3 (870L)

Christopher, Matt

The Counterfeit Tackle (720L)

Dirt Bike Racer (630L)

The Hockey Machine (790L)

Skateboard Tough (720L)

Snowboard Maverick (680L)

Soccer Halfback (730L)

Clements, Andrew

Frindle (830L)

The Report Card (700L)

Things Not Seen (690L)**

Colfer, Eoin

Artemis Fowl (600L)**

Creech, Sharon

Replay (850L)

Love That Dog (1010L)**

Granny Torrelli Makes Soup (810L)

DiCamillo, Kate

The Tale of Despereaux (670L)

The Tiger Rising (520L)

DuPrau, Jeanne

City of Ember (680L)**

Giff, Patricia Reilly

Pictures of Hollis Woods (650L)

Haddix, Margaret Peterson

Among the Hidden (800L)**

Running Out of Time (730L)

Hiaasen, Carl

Hoot (760L)

Horowitz, Anthony

Stormbreaker(670L)**

Lewis, C.S.

The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe (9840L)**

Paulsen, Gary

Brian's Winter (1140L)

Brian's Hunt (1180L)

Brian's Return (1130L)

The River (960L)

Sachar, Louis

Dogs Don't Tell Jokes (560L)

There's a Boy in the Girls' Bathroom (490L)

Scieszka, Jon

See You Later, Gladiator (600L)**

Tut Tut (690L)

Van Draanen, Wendelin

Sammy Keys and the Hotel Thief (840L)

Explanation of Lexile Scores:

Lexile scores are one way to match readers to books that they can read independently. When choosing a book, however, readers must also consider their interests. If the topic of the book is something that the reader knows a lot about, he or she can often enjoy a book at a higher lexile. If the topic of the book is new to the reader or is very complicated, it is better to choose a book at or below the reader's lexile level.

Students' individual lexile scores can be found on the Map-R report. Your English or reading teacher can provide this information and answer any questions that you have. More information is available at www.lexile.com.

