



SUMMER READING FOR FIRST THROUGH EIGHTH GRADES

June 23, 2011

Dear Parents,

The wonderful freedom of summertime is the perfect time to feed our children's sense of wonder and curiosity through reading. The literature recommended by St. Monica Academy is chosen to enlighten them about our classical roots and to reinforce their understanding of virtue. For the development of their literary sensibilities, they must read moral, well-crafted stories.

To assist parents in choosing literature that is both challenging in vocabulary and rewarding in content, we have prepared, in addition to the **required** summer reading (listed on the reverse of this sheet), lists of **recommended** reading for first through eighth grades. **Students must have finished the required reading by the first day of class in September.**

Please help to oversee your child's summer reading by taking time to discuss the reading with your child. Perhaps you could foster an evening routine, during which each of your children has time to tell the family about his or her day's reading. Read aloud with your children. Take them to the library, enroll them in the summer reading program there. Your involvement will provide invaluable motivation – and good literature strengthens families!

Have a happy summer!

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read "Marguerite A. Grimm".

Marguerite Grimm
Headmaster

**REQUIRED SUMMER READING
FOR FIRST THROUGH EIGHTH GRADES**

- **First Grade** **Six books from List A or B**
- **Second Grade** **Six Books from List A or B**
- **Third Grade** **Six Books from List A or B**
- **Fourth Grade** *Pinocchio* (Collodi, Puffin Classics only), *The Outlaws of Ravenhurst* (Wallace) **AND four more books from List B**
- **Fifth Grade** *Caddie Woodlawn* (Brink), *Shadow of a Bull* (Wojciechowska) **AND four more books from List B or C**
- **Sixth Grade** *The Golden Goblet* (McGraw), *Around the World in Eighty Days* (Verne), **AND four more books from List B or C**
- **Seventh Grade** *I, Juan de Pareja* (Trevino), *The Trumpeter of Krakow* (Kelly), **AND four books from List C**
- **Eighth Grade** *I, Juan de Pareja* (Trevino), *The Trumpeter of Krakow* (Kelly), **AND four books from List C**

Fourth through eighth graders must be prepared to pass a quiz on each of the required books during the first weeks of school.

Additional sources for recommended titles are:

Let the Authors Speak: A Guide to Worthy Books Based on Historical Setting by Carolyn Hatcher; *Honey For a Child's Heart* by Gladys Hunt; *Books That Build Character* by William Kilpatrick; *Books Children Love* by Elizabeth Wilson, Bethlehem Books (Ignatius Press)

When you take your student to the library, look for stories in section 398 (Dewey Decimal System), where you will find fairy tales, folk tales, myths, legends, American tall tales, and Aesop's fables. These stories are very important to a child's education, because they give us

“something grand: a collective vocabulary that helps build us together as a civilization...Students learn what an ‘Achilles heel’ or ‘Trojan horse’ is by reading Homer. They find out what ‘Camelot’ means by reading Arthurian legends... More to the point, knowing stories of Huck Finn and John Henry means claiming a legacy. Such tales have inspired generations of Americans. As part of our national memory, they help tell us who we are as a people.” (William Bennett, *The Educated Child*).