

To the members of the Class of 2012,

Welcome to the Eighth Grade!

Summer is a time for recreational reading, for exploring new books, or reading those that you didn't have time to read during the school year. Although I hope you will read voraciously this summer, I request that you read one book specifically for educational purposes.

For your summer selection you will be asked to read a non-fiction of your choice. Non-fiction is classified as prose writing that is based on facts, real events, and real people. Don't be alarmed. A good non-fiction book is as rich in possibilities for deep thought and discussion as any good novel. Your first job as an 8th grader is to choose a non-fiction that you find interesting entertaining, and yes, a bit challenging.

Attached to this letter, you will find a fairly extensive list of non-fiction titles for young adult readers. I put these titles together after reading through the surveys you filled out; however, there are also many others written after this list was compiled, so of course, if you cannot find a book on the list that suits your taste, you may seek out one that does. Make sure when you are choosing a book that you remember the difference between fiction and non-fiction. Once you have made your choice, please e-mail me at maketansky@nvnet.org with the title of the book you will be reading.

For your convenience, the library has been given a copy of our book list; however, you can also try local bookstores, or online at Barnes and Noble (www.bn.com), or Amazon (www.amazon.com).

Upon returning to school in September, you will be asked to share and draw upon your analytical and personal reactions to your book. In order to do so, please take into consideration maintaining some kind of annotation system or "interactive notebook" in which you keep track of literary elements, vocabulary, and personal reactions.

It is my deepest hope that reading non-fiction will help remind all of us that it is the day-to-day activities, inspirational people we connect to, as well as the major national and international events which occur, that have an affect on how we live, and shape the people we will become in the future.

Have a wonderful summer break. I look forward to seeing you in September.

Mrs. Mak