

West Side Summer Reading

Dear Parents and Students,

The summer break provides the opportunity for students to choose and enjoy books, magazines and newspapers that are suited to their own particular interests. This is one of the great things about summer vacation! We want our students to continue to read books that help develop and maintain their reading skills, become familiar with important authors, and to read some of the best literature that is available to young people.

In order to help students accomplish these goals, the following reading assignments are required this summer.

Students are expected to read at least **three books** (but we would love to hear that you read many more!).

- **BECOME AN EXPERT**

This year, we are excited for students to become an expert in one topic. Studies maintain that 85% of adult reading is nonfiction. Think of your own reading: news articles, recipes, nutritional information, technical reports, and sports reviews. We read to learn more about something.

First, choose a topic from the list provided in this folder. Next, choose TWO books about that topic.

There are no specific books that need to be read. Any books on the topic will do. We have provided a list of *suggested* books for each topic. Most are available at the Cold Spring Harbor Public Library. You are not limited to these books. We have also provided the Dewey Decimal Number, so that students may browse the shelves to find other books that interest them. When students return to school, they will participate in a teacher-guided knowledge sharing celebration on Friday, September 9, 2016.

We encourage each parent to read his or her child's selection as well. Wouldn't you like to find out more about space exploration, the Mona Lisa, or roller coasters?

- **FREE CHOICE**

For the free choice book, students will complete a postcard project. Students will draw a picture of their favorite part of the book on one side and write about their favorite part on the other side. Please mail (or drop off) the card to West Side so it can be displayed. If you are going away this summer, consider mailing the card from that location, so we can see the different postmarks. *A supplemental reading list will be posted on the West Side website.*

Parents are encouraged to help students choose books appropriate to their interests and independent reading level. Keep in mind there are many ways to appreciate literature. Students can read the book on their own, have it read to them or use a recorded book or ebook (playaway, RAZkids). Should you find you need any assistance, please feel free to contact a member of the West Side staff.

Happy reading from the West Side staff!