

# The Bellmore-Merrick Central High School District

## W.C. Mepham High School Summer Reading Program

June 2023

Dear Mepham families:

To quote acclaimed English teacher-leader and author Dr. Kylene Beers, *“Summer reading is about kicking off shoes, staying up much too late, reading all day with no one caring that’s what you’re doing. It’s about rushing through one to get to the next or lingering as long as you want. It’s about vicarious experiences that let us become a girl in an attic, a boy in the wilderness, a kite runner in a far-away land. And that type of reading begins with personal choice.”*

Once again, **the English Department at Mepham High School invites incoming 9<sup>th</sup> grade students to choose their own books for this year’s summer reading assignment.** To assist students in making their selections, the Mepham English Department website ([mephamenglish.weebly.com](http://mephamenglish.weebly.com)) has provided various peer-reviewed lists of suggested titles appropriate for adolescent and young adult readers. Students who may have difficulty making a selection should ask their teachers, a librarian, or the English Department Chairperson for help. Students at each grade level are asked to read one selection of their choice, be it fiction or nonfiction, novel, graphic novel, a book in verse, or drama. We, of course, encourage additional reading for pleasure!

While all of the titles on the lists we provide are deserving of merit, some may be suitable for more mature students. Therefore, we urge you to carefully review the lists to help your child make a selection that is appropriate based upon his/her/their interests, age, reading level, and maturity. Again, these lists are provided to offer suggestions, but children are welcome to go beyond the suggestions offered. All students, regardless of what they choose to read, will be asked to reflect on their summer reading selections in September.

**A large body of research, including locally-conducted research, indicates that students have higher perceptions of themselves as readers when they have choice in their reading selections.** We hope that our approach to summer reading will continue to enable students to discover, *or re-discover*, a natural love of reading. Through whole class discussions and lessons, students will have the opportunity to make connections to their summer reading text and to exchange ideas and opinions.

We look forward to growing Mepham’s community of readers!



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