The Bellmore-Merrick Central High School District

Merrick Avenue Middle School

Summer Reading Program

June 2023

Dear Parents,

We are pleased to present the **Bellmore-Merrick Central High School District Summer Reading Program**. Summer should be filled with joyful times, and we hope that reading will be an important part of your child’s summer plans. Reading is an integral part of student success and personal growth. While reading, we often lose ourselves in books, but often we find ourselves there as well. To this end, we highly encourage all students to read beyond the required summer reading assignment. We also encourage students to obtain a library card from their local library and to download ***Libby***, an application that allows students to borrow books electronically from the public library.

Below, we have included a reading list from which you and your child should select a book. Each of the following books reflects the theme of courage; each protagonist’s journey embodies some form of courage—the courage to discover who they are, the courage to be who they are, and the courage to accept and love who they are. Furthermore, each title addresses an instructional theme that will be explored during the school year. While all of the books on the list clearly have literary merit, some may be suitable for more mature students; therefore, we urge you to carefully review the list and help your child select a text that is appropriate based upon your child’s interests, age, reading level, and maturity**.** To assist students in making their book selections, each middle school’s website will have short summaries of the recommended titles. Students who have difficulty choosing a book should ask their teachers, a librarian, or the English Department Chairperson for help.

In an effort to focus students’ attention to author’s craft, we have included a brief assignment for your child to complete while reading. **All students entering grade 8 are required to read one book from the list below and to complete the accompanying assignment (yellow sheet enclosed). This assignment will be used to discuss the novel in September and it will be collected on Friday, September 22nd.**

We look forward to discussing these works with your children in September!

**Incoming Eighth Grade**

Albom, Mitch. *The Five People You Meet in Heaven*

Craft, Jerry. *New Kid*

Draper, Sharon. *Stella by Starlight*

Gratz, Alan. *Refugee*

Horowitz, Anthony. *Stormbreaker*

Lupica, Mike. *The Batboy*

Vail, Rachel. *Unfriended*

Zusak, Markus*. The Book Thief*