



North Shore Schools

Department of English and Literacy

June 22, 2008

Dear Parents, Guardians, and Students:

The summer months provide an opportunity for students to read books at their leisure, to visit libraries and bookstores on vacation, and to explore literature that builds an appetite for future reading. At North Shore, we require that students in Grades 6-12 read books selected from one of the attached lists. Students in senior courses, honors classes, or Advanced Placement may be asked to read more than one. These books will be the basis for an early September assessment.

Throughout the process of creating the Grades 6-12 Summer Reading Lists, we've consulted with students, teachers, librarians, and parents, so that we could create lists that inspire and challenge students to become life long readers. The titles we have selected should meet students' interests and expose them to a variety of writers. We hope that you will join your child in selecting and reading *at least one* book from the grade level list, if not more.

This year, several students remarked that they had forgotten details from books read early in the summer. Active reading in the form of note-taking can help, and on the district website, you can review several tools to assist in active reading; however, utilizing those tools is *optional*. One additional strategy is for a student to own her or his own copy of a text, so that a she or he can underline, highlight, and/or write their questions, notations, and commentary in the margins.

Please support our efforts by encouraging your child to read at every available opportunity and by talking with your child about their reading process. I have sent copies of the lists to local bookstores and libraries and asked them to stock the titles. However, I suggest you call in advance. All of the books are easily available from on-line sources as well.

Sincerely,

Maureen A. Curis

Maureen A. Curis
Director of English and Literacy