



**St. Francis Xavier
K-8 Jesuit Parish School**
*Recognizing the distinct possibilities of every child
through faith, character, and intellect.*

Summer Reading List 2009

May 7, 2009

Dear St. Francis Xavier Parents,

Summer reading has been a long-standing tradition at St. Francis Xavier and reflects our commitment to academic excellence. The following is the school's rationale for requiring summer reading:

1. To encourage students to develop and/or retain a habit of reading.
2. To keep students at grade level performance and help retention of reading skills. According to an article by Walter Minkel of School Library Journal, "Students participating in a summer reading program are more likely to read at their grade level or above than their nonparticipating peers and those reading above grade level are more likely to retain those skills in the next school year..."
3. To expose students to a variety of literature, both classic and contemporary, that strengthens reading and critical thinking skills.
4. Summer reading assignments build community by giving all students a common basis for discussion and classroom activities upon return to school in the fall.
5. Students are asked to do a writing assignment on their reading so as to reinforce comprehension and literary skills.

In order to prepare our students for the expectations of high school, junior high summer reading requirements are more rigorous than in grades K-6. In the junior high, students are asked to take notes on what they read and are assessed on summer reading during the first week of school. The high schools expect students to not only just read for enjoyment, but to read for retention. They further test students during the first weeks of school and the assessment is considered a major part of their English grade.

Our junior high expectations are designed to gradually prepare students for this expectation. Students are provided with structure as to note taking and will participate in class discussions of the reading material before assessments are given in the fall.

We hope you and your family have a safe and enjoyable summer.

Sincerely in Christ,

Lisa Elliott
Principal



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As part of the summer reading, we are asking students to write about what they read. The assigned writing activity for each grade level is designed to help improve student comprehension.

Kindergarten: Please read nursery rhymes and Dr. Seuss books to your child. Have your child rhyme with you.

Grade 1 REVISED: During the summer, you are asked to read for fun and pleasure. You may select books to read by yourself or with someone else. Please record the books you read on the chart on Renweb. Then, return the summer reading chart when school begins in August. We will begin the year with many activities using these books. Many authors have great web sites to view their books before you go to the library.

Grades 2: Draw their favorite event of each story and write 3-5 sentences describing the event. This will be due the first week of school.

Grade 3: Complete the activity sheets that are located on Renweb and the SFX web page. Students will be required to choose one of the three non-fiction activities and required to complete one character scrap book for the Beverly Cleary selection.

Grade 4: Complete the story map that can be found on Renweb and the SFX web site.

Grades 5: For each book, fill out the summer reading worksheet for each book that is available on the school web site and Renweb under the downloads. Worksheets are due the first week of school.

Grades 6 and Junior High. Students are required to read two books (listed below). Students need to check RENWEB to download the requirements for the summer reading activity. All students will be assessed on these books the first week of school.

<p align="center">Kindergarten</p> <p>You are required to read nursery rhymes and Dr. Seuss books to your child. Have your child rhyme with you.</p>	<p align="center">1st GRADE - <u>REVISED</u></p> <p>Please read the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One fiction book • One non-fiction book • One folktale or fairytale book <p>One book by each of the following authors:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gail Gibbons • Ezra Jack Keats • Leo Lionni • David Shannon • Audrey Woods
<p align="center">2nd GRADE</p> <p>You are required to read <u>two</u> books from this list of titles.</p> <p><u>Strega Nona</u> by Tomie de Paola <u>Big Anthony</u> by Tomie de Paola <u>Art Lesson</u> by Tomie de Paola <u>The Baby Sister</u> by Tomie de Paola</p>	<p align="center">3rd GRADE</p> <p>You are required to read <u>two</u> books from this list of titles.</p> <p>Any Beverly Cleary at their level One Non-Fiction Book at their level</p>



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<p style="text-align: center;">4th GRADE</p> <p>You are required to read the following book: <u>Because of Winn Dixie</u> by Kate DiCamillo</p> <p>In addition, students must choose one book with a dog as the main character. The titles below are suggestions.</p> <p><u>Old Yeller</u>, <u>Shilo</u>, <u>Summer of Riley</u>, <u>Red Dog</u>, <u>Hank the Cowdog</u>, <u>Stone Fox</u>, <u>Sounder</u>, <u>A Dog's Life</u>, and <u>Henry and Risby</u>.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">5th GRADE</p> <p>You are required to read <u>two</u> books from this list of titles.</p> <p><u>The Babe and Me</u> by Dan Gutman <u>The Graduation of Jake Moon</u> by Barbara Park <u>The Great Gilly Hopkins</u> by Katherine Paterson <u>Crispin</u> by Avi <u>Each Little Bird that Sings</u> by Deborah Wiles</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">6th GRADE</p> <p>Required: <u>Crispin – The Cross of Lead</u> by Avi <u>Number the Stars</u> by Lois Lowry</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">7th GRADE</p> <p>Required: <u>My Brother Sam is Dead</u> by Christopher Collier <u>Out of the Dust</u> by Karen Hesse</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">8th GRADE</p> <p>Required: <u>The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn</u> by Mark Twain</p> <p>Choose one of the following: <u>The Pigman</u> by Paul Zindel <u>Elsewhere</u> by Gabrielle Zevin <u>Flowers for Algernon</u> by Daniel Keyes</p>	