



Westmont Hilltop

Optional Summer Reading Program & assigned Summer Reading for Honors and AP Grades 9-12

The Westmont Hilltop School District encourages your child to participate in a summer reading program available to all students from 7th grade through grade 12. Summer reading is one of the best ways to improve our students' achievement rates and encourage them toward the lifelong learning goal that educators aspire to instill in our students. Our teachers have worked diligently to provide reading and activities that will be meaningfully connected to the curriculum and goals at Westmont Hilltop.

Your child can choose one of the following books from the list below, read the book, and participate in an educational literature circle on **Tuesday, July 16, Thursday, August 8, or Tuesday, August 13**. ALL sessions are from **5:00 P.M. to 7:00 P.M.**

Please read/ sign/ return the permission form attached.

Participation in one of the optional Summer Reading will count as 50% of your child's final exam grade (X1). However, if your child chooses not to participate, s/he will be exempt from the assignment grade and the final will be worth the entire percentage.

Ashes by Kathryn Lasky

Thirteen-year-old Gabriella Schramm's favorite pastime is reading. With Adolf Hitler slowly but unstopably rising to power, Gaby turns to her books for comfort while the world around her changes dramatically: The streets become filled with soldiers, Gaby's sister's boyfriend raises his arm in a heil Hitler salute, and the Schramms family friend Albert Einstein flees the country. When Gaby's beloved books come under attack, she fears she may have to leave behind the fiction -and the life- she has always cherished.

*Summary borrowed from: "Ashes." *Goodreads*. <http://www.Goodreads.com>. Accessed 3 April 2019.

When Breath Becomes Air by Paul Kalanithi

At the age of thirty-six, on the verge of completing a decade's worth of training as a neurosurgeon, Paul Kalanithi was diagnosed with stage IV lung cancer. One day he was a doctor treating the dying, and the next he was a patient struggling to live. And just like that, the future he and his wife had imagined evaporated. When *Breath Becomes Air* chronicles Kalanithi's transformation from a naïve medical student "possessed," as he wrote, "by the question of what, given that all organisms die, makes a virtuous and meaningful life" into a neurosurgeon at Stanford working in the brain, the most critical place for human identity, and finally into a patient and new father confronting his own mortality.

*Summary borrowed from: "When Breath Becomes Air." *Goodreads*. <http://www.Goodreads.com>. Accessed 3 April 2019.

Monster by Walter Dean Myers

Sixteen-year-old Steve Harmon is on trial for murder. A Harlem drugstore owner was shot and killed in his store, and the word is that Steve served as the lookout. Guilty or innocent, Steve becomes a pawn in the hands of "the system," cluttered with cynical authority figures and unscrupulous inmates, who will turn in anyone to shorten their own sentences. For the first time, Steve is forced to think about who he is as he faces prison, where he may spend all the tomorrows of his life.

*Summary borrowed from: "Monster." *Goodreads*. <http://www.Goodreads.com>. Accessed 3 April 2019.

The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Nighttime by Mark Haddon (some profanity)

Although gifted with a superbly logical brain, for fifteen-year-old Christopher everyday interactions and admonishments have little meaning. He lives on patterns, rules, and a diagram kept in his pocket. Then one day, a neighbor's dog, Wellington, is killed and his carefully constructive universe is threatened. Christopher sets out to solve the murder in the style of his favourite detective, Sherlock Holmes. What follows makes for a novel that is funny, poignant and fascinating in its portrayal of a person whose curse and blessing are a mind that perceives the world entirely literally.

*Summary borrowed from: "The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Nighttime." *Goodreads*. <http://www.Goodreads.com>. Accessed 3 April 2019.

Additionally, if your child is taking honors or an advanced placement English course, please read the following selections by the first day of school.

9 Honors English- Read *Flowers For Algernon* by Daniel Keys

10 AP Language and Composition – Read *Fahrenheit 451* by Ray Bradbury and *The Scarlet Letter* by Nathaniel Hawthorne

11 Honors English- Read *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland & Through the Looking Glass* by Lewis Carroll and *Peter Pan* by J.M. Barrie.

AP Literature and Composition- Read *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* by Mark Twain and *Death of a Salesman* by Arthur Miller.

These students will complete an in class writing assignment the first week of their class on their specific texts.

Thank you for your willingness to support the summer reading program. It is our hope that students will enjoy these reading experiences.

9-12 Language Arts Departments

Digital copies for novels can be found on Westmont Digital Library, Cambria County Library, free websites. Some paper copies are available in the main office.

