



## Summer Reading 2018-2019 Middle School Grades 7 and 8

Research is clear that summer reading is a benefit to the continued academic achievement of students. Therefore, the teachers at Divine Mercy Academy Middle School are encouraging students to take time over the summer to read at every opportunity!

In addition to books of personal choice, 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade students are required to read over the summer as a part of their English Language Arts classes. Students will be tested on their Summer Reading selection during the first week of school. Accelerated Reader (AR) points earned from the selection tests will count toward the total AR points required for the first marking period. Books may also be used by the classroom teacher for a class project or other assignment.

The book selections for 2018-2019 are listed on the attached page for each grade level. Students should choose one selection from choices for their grade for the 2018-2019 school year. A short synopsis of each book has been included to help in the decision-making process.

Students are responsible for obtaining the book they need to read for their grade. These books are available at most bookstores, public libraries, online sources (e.g., Amazon, Barnes & Noble, etc.), and for download to e-readers. In addition, most are available in audio format (e.g., Audible), which can aid while following along with a print format.

Books may also be ordered through the Bishop McCort Business Office. Orders **MUST** be placed by **Monday, June 18, 2018**, by calling 248-3882.

## **Divine Mercy, 7th Grade Summer Reading 2018/2019**

### ***Funerals and Fly Fishing* By Mary Bartek AR Points 4**

Brad Stanislawski is looking forward to summer vacation, if only to get away from the classmates who make fun of his size (it's not his fault he's so tall) and his last name (Stan-is-lousy being their insult of choice). So when his mom announces that she's taking a summer vacation by herself and sending him to stay with his grandfather—a man Brad has never met who also happens to be an undertaker—he thinks life couldn't possibly get any worse until he hears about the secret hidden in his grandfather's house. Still, as Brad ought to know, first impressions can be deceiving.

### ***Skellig* By David Almond AR Points 4**

Michael was looking forward to moving into a new house. But now his baby sister is ill, his parents are frantic, and Doctor Death has come to call. Michael feels helpless. Then he steps into the crumbling garage and encounters a strange being who changes his world forever.

### ***Island of the Blue Dolphins* By Scott O'Dell AR Points 6**

Far off the coast of California looms a harsh rock known as the island of San Nicholas. Dolphins flash in the blue waters around it, sea otters play in the vast kelp beds, and sea elephants loll on the stony beaches. Here, in the early 1800s, according to history, an Indian girl, Karana, spent eighteen years alone. She had to contend with the ferocious pack of wild dogs that had killed her younger brother, constantly guard against the Aleutian sea otter hunters, and maintain a precarious food supply. Karana's quiet courage, her self-reliance and acceptance of fate, transform what to many would have been a devastating ordeal into an uplifting experience.

### ***The View from Saturday* By E. L. Konigsburg AR Points 7**

How had Mrs. Olinski chosen her sixth-grade Academic Bowl team? She had a number of answers. But were any of them true? How had she really chosen Noah and Nadia and Ethan and Julian? And why did they make such a good team? It was a surprise to a lot of people when Mrs. Olinski's team won the sixth-grade Academic Bowl contest at Epiphany Middle School. It was an even bigger surprise when they beat the seventh grade and the eighth grade, too. And when they went on to even greater victories, everyone began to ask: How did it happen?

### ***Faceless* By Alyssa Sheinmel AR Points 14**

While on a run one day, Maise gets into a terrible accident. A hot-burning electrical fire consumes her, destroying her face. Where her nose, cheeks, and chin used to be, now there is . . . nothing. She is lucky enough to qualify for a face transplant. But with someone else's features staring back at her in the mirror, Maise looks--and feels--like a stranger. The doctors promised that the transplant was her chance to live a normal life again, but nothing feels normal anymore. Before, she knew who she was--a regular girl who ran track and got good grades, who loved her boyfriend and her best friend. Now, she can't even recognize herself.

## Divine Mercy, 8th Grade Summer Reading 2018/2019

### ***The Dead Man in Indian Creek***

By Mary Downing Hahn

**AR Points 4**

While camping near Indian Creek, Matt and his best friend, Parker, find the body of a dead man floating in the clear water. Parker is sure that George Evans, the smooth-talking local antiques dealer, must somehow be connected to the dead man. But then, on Halloween night, while snooping around Evans's antique shop, the boys make another shocking discovery that puts their own lives in danger. There are murderous grownups who would do anything to keep what the boys found in the shop a secret, and now they're after Matt and Parker. Are the boys clever enough to get away? Or will they, too, end up like the dead man in Indian Creek?

### ***The Dollhouse Murders***

By Betty Ren Wright

**AR Points 5**

Amy is terrified. She hears scratching and scurrying noises coming from her dollhouse, and the dolls she was playing with are not where she left them. Dolls can't move by themselves, she tells herself. But every night when Amy goes into the attic to check on the dollhouse, it is filled with an eerie light and the dolls have moved again! Are the dolls trying to tell her something? Are their movements connected to the grisly murders of her own great-grandparents?

### ***Ghosts I Have Been***

By Richard Peck

**AR Points 9**

Blossom Culp is the outspoken outcast of Bluff City, and she is always getting into trouble. No one wants to cross her, especially now that she's revealed that she can see the Unseen. Then Blossom herself is stunned because her lie turns out to be truth. She actually does have second sight...and she is "on board" the sinking Titanic.

### ***Lily's Ghosts***

By Laura Ruby

**AR Points 8**

She can't believe she has to move again after her mom's break-up with the latest boyfriend. Now they're broke and they'll have to spend the winter in Uncle Wes's creepy summerhouse in Cape May. From the ghostly spiteful teenager who mistakes Lily for her high school nemesis to the restless spirit of her eccentric Uncle Max, Lily is haunted by a host of unhappy phantoms. With the help of some mysterious clues, Lily and her new friend, local boy Vaz, uncover a sinister plot. If they don't foil the villainous plan in time, they may end up doing some eternal haunting of their own.

### ***Stepping on the Cracks***

By Mary Downing Hahn

**AR Points 8**

In 1944, when her brother is overseas fighting in World War II, eleven-year-old Margaret changes her mind about the school bully, Gordy, after she discovers he is hiding his own brother, a deserter.

# Summer Reading 2018-2019

## High School Grades 9-12



Research is clear that summer reading is a benefit to the continued academic achievement of students. Therefore, the teachers at Bishop McCort Catholic High School are encouraging students to take time over the summer to read at every opportunity!

In addition to books of personal choice, 9th - 12th grade students are required to read over the summer as a part of their English Language Arts classes. Students will be tested on their Summer Reading selection during the first week of school, and books may be used by the classroom teacher for a class project or other assignment.

Furthermore, all students enrolled at Bishop McCort will be participating in the Accelerated Reader (AR) program throughout the school year. Each quarter, students will be required to earn a designated number of AR points by reading independently and taking tests on the books that are read. The Summer Reading book that students choose will count toward the first points of the AR program for the school year.

Due to the implementation of the AR program, the Summer Reading requirement has been slightly altered in comparison to previous years. The book selections for 2018-2019 are listed on the attached page for each grade level. Students should choose one selection from choices for their grade for the 2018-2019 school year. A short synopsis of each book has been included to help in the decision-making process.

Students are responsible for obtaining the book they need to read for their grade. These books are available at most bookstores, public libraries, online sources (e.g., Amazon, Barnes & Noble, etc.), and for download to e-readers. In addition, most are available in audio format (e.g., Audible), which can aid while following along with a print format.

Books may also be ordered through the Bishop McCort Business Office. Orders **MUST** be placed by **Monday, June 18, 2018**, by calling 248-3882.

## Freshman Summer Reading 2018/2019

### *Tears of a Tiger*

By Sharon Draper

**AR Points 4**

The death of high school basketball star Rob Washington in an automobile accident affects the lives of his close friend Andy, who was driving the car, and many others in the school.

### *Someone to Love Me*

By Anne Schraff

**AR Points 4**

Trying to escape her problems at home and school, Cindy becomes involved with a seemingly nice boy and finds herself in the worst trouble of her life.

### *Michael Vey: Prisoner of Cell 25*

By Richard Paul Evans

**AR Points 11**

Fourteen-year-old Michael discovers he has special electrical powers and, with the help of his best friends, becomes aware that there are other teens with similar powers, but something or someone is hunting them. (Book #1)

### *Ask Me No Questions*

By Marina Budhos

**AR Points 5**

Fourteen-year-old Nadira, her sister, and their parents leave Bangladesh for New York City, but the expiration of their visas and the events of September 11, 2001, bring frustration, sorrow, and terror for the whole family.

### *The Adventures of the Blue Avenger*

By Norma Howe

**AR Points 7**

On his sixteenth birthday, still trying to cope with the unexpected death of his father, David Schumacher decides--or does he?--to change his name to Blue Avenger, hoping to find a way to make a difference in his Oakland neighborhood and in the world.

## Sophomore Summer Reading 2018/2019

### ***The Angel Experiment: A Maximum Ride Novel***

**AR Points 11**

By James Patterson

Fourteen-year-old Maximum Ride, better known as Max, knows what it's like to soar above the world. She and all the members of the "flock"--Fang, Iggy, Nudge, Gasman and Angel--are just like ordinary kids--only they have wings and can fly. It may seem like a dream come true to some, but their lives can morph into a living nightmare at any time...like when Angel, the youngest member of the flock, is kidnapped and taken back to the "School" where she and the others were experimented on. Her friends brave a journey to Death Valley, California, to save Angel, but soon enough, they find themselves fighting off the half-human, half-wolf "Erasers" in New York City.

### ***Snatched***

**AR Points 7**

By Pete Hautman

When high school student Alicia Camden suddenly disappears, the small town of Bloodwater is in shock, and it's up to Roni Delicata, reporter for the school's *Bloodwater Pump*, and her sidekick, Brian Bain, to figure out what's going on. With suspects all around them and suspicions high, Roni and Brian risk their lives—and a few groundings from their parents—to get to the bottom of things.

### ***The House on the Gulf***

**AR Points 8**

By Margaret Peterson Haddix

When Britt's older brother, Bran, lands a summer job house-sitting in Florida, it seems like a great opportunity. Britt's family has just recently moved to Florida, and could use the extra money while her mom finishes college. There's only one problem: Britt starts to suspect her family isn't supposed to be there. Britt starts poking around, and makes a startling discovery--the owners of the house aren't who Bran says they are. So whose house are they living in, and why has Bran brought them there?

### ***Refugee***

**AR Points 10**

By Alan Gratz

Josef is a Jewish boy living in 1930s Nazi Germany. With the threat of concentration camps looming, he and his family board a ship bound for the other side of the world. Isabel is a Cuban girl in 1994. With riots and unrest plaguing her country, she and her family set out on a raft, looking for safety in America. Mahmoud is a Syrian boy in 2015. With his homeland torn apart by violence and destruction, he and his family begin a long trek toward Europe. All go on harrowing journeys in search of refuge.

### ***Z for Zachariah***

**AR Points 9**

By Robert C. O'Brien

Ann Burden is sixteen years old and completely alone. The world as she once knew it is gone, ravaged by a nuclear war that has taken everyone from her. For the past year, she has lived in a remote valley with no evidence of any other survivors, until the smoke from a distant campfire shatters Ann's solitude. Someone else is still alive and making his way toward the valley. Who is this man? What does he want? Can he be trusted? Both excited and terrified, Ann soon realizes there may be worse things than being the last person on Earth.

## Junior Summer Reading 2018/2019

***Tuesdays With Morrie*** by Mitch Albom      **AR Points 5**

Maybe it was a grandparent, or a teacher or a colleague. Someone older, patient and wise, who understood you when you were young and searching, and gave you sound advice to help you make your way through it. For Mitch Albom, that person was Morrie Schwartz, his college professor from nearly twenty years ago. Maybe, like Mitch, you lost track of this mentor as you made your way, and the insights faded. Wouldn't you like to see that person again, ask the bigger questions that still haunt you? Mitch Albom had that second chance. He rediscovered Morrie in the last months of the older man's life. Knowing he was dying of ALS--or motor neuron disease--Mitch visited Morrie in his study every Tuesday, just as they used to back in college. Their rekindled relationship turns into one final 'class': lessons in how to live.

***Stargirl*** by Jerry Spinelli      **AR Points 6**

Leo Borlock follows the unspoken rule at Mica Area High School: don't stand out--under any circumstances! Then Stargirl arrives at Mica High and everything changes--for Leo and for the entire school. After 15 years of homeschooling, Stargirl bursts into tenth grade in an explosion of color and a clatter of ukulele music, enchanting the Mica student body. But the delicate scales of popularity suddenly shift, and Stargirl is shunned for everything that makes her different. Somewhere in the midst of Stargirl's arrival and rise and fall, normal Leo Borlock has tumbled into love with her. In a celebration of nonconformity, Jerry Spinelli weaves a tense, emotional tale about the fleeting, cruel nature of popularity--and the thrill and inspiration of first love.

***I Am Malala: The Girl Who Stood Up for Education and Was Shot by the Taliban***  
by Christina Lamb and Malala Yousafzai      **AR Points 16**

When the Taliban took control of the Swat Valley in Pakistan, one girl spoke out. Malala Yousafzai refused to be silenced and fought for her right to an education. On Tuesday, October 9, 2012, when she was fifteen, she was shot in the head at point-blank range while riding the bus home from school, and few expected her to survive. Instead, Malala's miraculous recovery has taken her on an extraordinary journey from a remote valley in northern Pakistan to the halls of the United Nations in New York. At sixteen, became a global symbol of peaceful protest and the youngest-ever Nobel Peace Prize laureate. *I Am Malala* is the remarkable tale of one family's journey after being uprooted by terrorism.

***Challenger Deep*** by Neal Shusterman      **AR Points 12**

Caden Bosch is on a ship that's headed for the deepest point on Earth: Challenger Deep, the southern part of the Marianas Trench. *Caden Bosch is a brilliant high school student whose friends are starting to notice his odd behavior.* Caden Bosch is designated the ship's artist to document the journey with images. *Caden Bosch pretends to join the school track team but spends his days walking for miles, absorbed by the thoughts in his head.* Caden Bosch is split between his allegiance to the captain and the allure of mutiny. Caden Bosch is torn.

***Peak*** by Roland Smith      **AR Points 9**

After fourteen-year-old Peak Marcello is arrested for scaling a New York City skyscraper, he's left with two choices: wither away in Juvenile Detention or go live with his long-lost father, who runs a climbing company in Thailand. But Peak quickly learns that his father's renewed interest in him has strings attached. As owner of Peak Expeditions, Peak's dad wants his son to be the youngest person to reach the Everest summit--and his motives are selfish at best. Even so, for a climbing addict like Peak, tackling Everest is the challenge of a lifetime. But it's also one that could cost him his life.

## Senior Summer Reading 2018/2019

### ***Murder on the Orient Express*** By Agatha Christie **AR Points 9**

“The murderer is with us—on the train now . . .” Just after midnight, the famous Orient Express is stopped in its tracks by a snowdrift. By morning, the millionaire Samuel Edward Ratchett lies dead in his compartment, stabbed a dozen times, his door locked from the inside. Without a shred of doubt, one of his fellow passengers is the murderer. Isolated by the storm, famed detective Hercule Poirot must find the killer among a dozen of the dead man's enemies, before the murderer decides to strike again.

### ***Lord of the Flies*** By William Golding **AR Points 9**

At the dawn of the next world war, a plane crashes on an uncharted island, stranding a group of schoolboys. At first, with no adult supervision, their freedom is something to celebrate. This far from civilization they can do anything they want. Anything. But as order collapses, as strange howls echo in the night, and as terror begins its reign, the hope of adventure seems as far removed from reality as the hope of being rescued.

### ***Brave New World*** By Aldous Huxley **AR Points 11**

This satirical novel describes a future world in which babies are decanted from bottles and the great Ford is worshipped. *Brave New World* is a searching vision of an unequal, technologically-advanced future where humans are genetically bred, socially indoctrinated, and pharmaceutically anesthetized to passively uphold an authoritarian ruling order--all at the cost of freedom, full humanity, and perhaps their souls. Written in the shadow of the rise of fascism during the 1930s, *Brave New World* likewise speaks to a 21st-century world dominated by mass-entertainment, technology, medicine and pharmaceuticals, the arts of persuasion, and the hidden influence of elites.

### ***Things Fall Apart*** By Chinua Achebe **AR Points 8**

Told through the fictional experiences of Okonkwo, a wealthy and fearless Igbo warrior of Umuofia in the late 1800s, *Things Fall Apart* explores one man's futile resistance to the devaluing of his Igbo traditions by British political and religious forces and his despair as his community capitulates to the powerful new order. *Things Fall Apart* provides one of the most illuminating and permanent monuments to the African experience. Achebe not only captures life in a pre-colonial African village, but he also conveys the tragedy of the loss of that world while broadening an understanding of contemporary realities.

### ***The Screwtape Letters*** By C. S. Lewis **AR Points 7**

Letters from Screwtape, an elderly devil, advise his nephew Wormwood, an apprentice devil, how to corrupt his earthly "patient." In this humorous exchange, Lewis delves into moral questions about good v. evil, temptation, repentance, and grace. *The Screwtape Letters* by C.S. Lewis is a classic masterpiece of religious satire that entertains readers with its sly and ironic portrayal of human life and foibles from the vantage point of Screwtape, a highly placed assistant to "Our Father Below." At once wildly comic, deadly serious, and strikingly original, C.S. Lewis's *The Screwtape Letters* is a most engaging account of temptation—and triumph over it.