May 2017

Dear Students and Parents:

The 2017 summer reading requirements and lists have been revised and are now completed. Each student entering grades 6, 7 and 8 is required to read a minimum of two books, one required title and one other selection from the grade level summer reading list.

Our purpose is to encourage reading in the summer months and to provide an opportunity for common discussion in each English class when school resumes. Since there will be class discussion and/or written work based on the readings, we recommend that students read required titles towards the end of the summer and take notes in the books.

The required titles for each grade are:

Entering 6th grade: *Freak the Mighty*, by W. Rodman Philbrick

7th grade: *ONE* novel from the required Core Genre List (see 7th Grade Summer Reading List for details)

8th grade: *The House on Mango Street*, by Sandra Cisneros

Summer reading lists have been prepared by the English department for each grade level. Refer to these lists when choosing additional books for the summer requirement. The lists are posted on the John Cooper Middle School Library website.

The English Department recognizes that summer is a time for rest and relaxation, and our goal is not to detract from that in any way. Rather, we hope that these readings are enjoyable, and we encourage each student to read a variety of books in addition to the required selections.

Sincerely,

Deborah Humes,
English Department Liaison