

Immaculate Conception Academy

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The Feast of the Saint Anthony of Padua

ACADEMY SUMMER READING PROGRAM

Dear Parents and Students,

Here at the Academy, we always stress the beauty and the importance of reading—especially during these summer months! In these crucial developmental years, it is so essential for the children to be reading, and to realize that we do not take a “vacation from learning.” As a matter of fact, if a child were to go through all the weeks of the summer without reading, it would end up causing a regression in all the skills they have been practicing throughout the school year. So, it really is part of our responsibility as parents and educators to make sure that we not only keep our children reading, but that we also help them to see how beautiful, exciting, and important reading is for all their lives.

SUMMER READING CHALLENGE FOR GRADES 1-6

This is one of many reasons that we take our summer reading program so seriously. The summer reading program covers Grades 1-12. For grades 1-6 there is no set assignment—in other words, we do not require that students in those grades read certain books. Rather, for these grades we have the *Academy Summer Reading Challenge*. The way this Challenge works is that we want all the students in grades 1-6 to read as many books as they can during the summer time, and to keep track of the books they read. One way the students could keep track of their books is by using a summer reading journal. In these journals they could write the title of each book they read, and then either write a short description of the book or even draw a picture based on the book. Students could use a notebook to create these journals and then they can bring those in to share with their classes in the fall. This is not a requirement for grades 1-6, but it is fun way for the students to keep track of the books they read this summer. There will be a prize for the student in each class (Grades 1-6) who reads the most books, and to receive that prize they will need to have a list of the books they read. We ask that the parents sign those lists to make sure that the lists are accurate.

Again, taking part in the Challenge is not a requirement, but we do strongly recommend that the students in these grades take advantage of the summer time to have fun reading books of their own choosing. So, I encourage these younger students to read as many books as they can, and to have fun with the reading! Let's see which student can read the most books this summer!

SUMMER READING ASSIGNMENTS FOR GRADES 7-12

As in past years, there will be a summer reading assignment for all incoming students in next year's grades 7-12. The teachers of this year's English and History courses will be keeping in regular contact throughout the summer months about these summer reading books and assignments and how they will appear in next year's classwork. For now, though, I am sending a list of the books to be read in the respective classes. Please remember that these books are not meant to take all summer to read—rather, the intention is that these books would usually be read in the last part of the vacation period, as a preparation for the start of classes in

September. And it is my hope that the children will read many other additional books of their own choosing as well.

In that spirit, we do have a challenge for these older students as well. We would like the students to read more than just these assigned books. So, they should see how many additional books of their own choosing they can read as well, and keep a list of all the books they read this summer. We will have a prize for the student in each class—Grades 7-12—who reads the most books this summer. Students should bring these lists with them when classes resume in the fall. Again, you parents can help us to challenge the students—see how many books they can read. Encourage them to be the student that reads the most books this summer!

I will be emailing the students in grades 7-12 with the details of the summer reading assignment—i.e. summer reading quizzes, et cetera. I will also send these students information about where the books can be purchased. That being said, these are the summer reading book assignments for Grades 7-12:

Seventh & Eighth Grades

- *Kidnapped. Robert Louis Stevenson*

Ninth and Tenth Grades

- *Ivanhoe. Sir Walter Scott*
- *The Book of Exodus (Old Testament)*
- *Edmund Campion: A Life. Evelyn Waugh*

Eleventh and Twelfth Grades

- *Anna Karenina. Leo Tolstoy*
- *The Acts of the Apostles (New Testament)*
- *The Boys in the Boat. Daniel James Brown*

I wish all of you a wonderful summer vacation, and I hope that reading these books will make the break even more wonderful and exciting. Happy reading and God bless you all!

In the Sacred Heart of Jesus,



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Fides et Honor