

St. James High School/Horry County Schools Summer Reading Program



May 10, 2019

Dear Parent or Guardian:

Because Horry County Schools and St. James High School wish to foster an interest in and a habit of reading, we are continuing a summer reading initiative for all high school students including incoming ninth graders. One of our goals in English/Language Arts instruction is to encourage students to become lifelong readers. In addition, we wish to assist students in improving their reading skills, and we know that students improve their reading through practice. For this reason, we are encouraging all students to continue the practice of reading throughout the summer. Many literary works are challenging, and we encourage students to select those titles that are age-appropriate, fit their interests, and stimulate thought; selections 100 points below and 50 points above a student's Lexile are likely to stimulate growth. Discussing the summer reading requirement with students, parents, and staff members may provide some guidance during the text selection process as well as the assignment-completion stage.

Our expectation is that students will complete the reading and the response preparation forms for the books during summer vacation. Students will then **submit thorough and accurate response form(s) by September 5, 2019**, regardless of when they have English class in the 2019-2020 school year. Thorough and accurate responses to an age-appropriate book can earn a student **1% extra credit** toward the first quarter of English class.

Forms with instructions for the summer reading requirements will be available online on the St. James High School web page at <https://www.horrycountyschools.net/Domain/4620>. **Work should be completed on separate paper. In order to receive credit, forms must be printed and submitted with a parent/guardian and student signatures.** We hope that you will support our initiative by encouraging your child to read books which are **new** to him/her and to complete the summer reading written requirement. If you have any questions about this initiative, please contact your child's English teacher or Mrs. Kelly Vargo, English Department Chair at kvargo@horrycountyschools.net.

Thank you,

Kelly C. Vargo

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