

Our Lady of the Sacred Heart Academy

Grades 1-6 Summer Reading Requirement

Daily reading should be an integral part of a child's life, and while students in grades one through six are required to read a minimum of **four** books over the summer, the Academy encourages students to read all of the recommended books on the attached list. Our goal is that students should read wholesome literature for a minimum of **two** hours each day over the summer. There is a direct correlation between increased time spent reading and higher grades!!

Students in grades three through six will be accountable for their reading through attached book reports to be completed throughout the summer, and they will count towards the first quarter's grade. You should mail or bring the first report to school by June 30, the second report by July 15, the third report by July 30, and the fourth by August 15.

Students who read a total of ten books from the recommended list will receive a gift certificate to Culver's and one free homework pass (this entitles the student to one extra day to complete the work). **TEN BOOK REPORTS MUST BE COMPLETED TO RECEIVE THE CERTIFICATE.** Students who read **all** of the books on the recommended list will receive a gift certificate to the Kerasotes Movie Theater in addition to the Culver's certificate and one free homework pass. The student should fill out the attached list with the names of the books read; a parent should initial it; it should be returned to the teacher in the fall.

The books listed on the following pages have been carefully selected to encourage spiritual growth, build character and correspond to the students' upcoming courses in the fall. **Since each student is at a different reading level, a student may choose to read books from a lower or higher grade-level list once they have completed their required reading.** Please know that quite a few of the listed books may be out of print, and the Academy library, Rockford Public Library (RPL) or a used-book source may be the best place to find them. They may also be purchased on-line at www.abebooks.com, www.barnesandnoble.com, www.emmanuelbooks.com or from www.amazon.com.

Why do we require these older books? While there are many good recently published books that we do recommend, or that parents may choose to have their children read, these older books are truly unique; these treasures are Catholic gems that your grandparents may have read, and or patriotic books that have not been altered by the pervasive historical revisionism and political correctness that has been sweeping the field of literature!

Enjoy your reading, and have a wonderful, grace-filled summer holiday. See you in the fall! Note: Students who enroll after August 15 are required to read one book.

Important Note: Math Facts!

It is imperative that rising third-graders have achieved two-second timed mastery of one to eighteen addition and subtraction facts, zero to five multiplication tables, and one to five division tables, and that students entering grades four through eight have achieved two-second timed mastery of zero to twelve multiplication tables and one to twelve division tables.

If your child cannot verbalize the answer to the math fact within two seconds, he must practice daily (with flash cards, if necessary) until he is able to do so. Mastering these skills is foundational to success in all future math courses, and it will also decrease the amount of time spent on homework. Practice makes perfect!

Grades One and Two

Note: The required religious books are designed for parents to read aloud. Parents of second-graders should discuss with their children the important comprehension questions at the end of every chapter (answers are located at the end of the book) or in the study guide. You may borrow copies of these books and the study guide from the Academy. There are six copies available in the office, and we ask that you return the book and guide within twelve to nineteen days so that other families have time to complete the reading.

Religious

(Required for grade one)

***The Weight of a Mass*, Josephine Nobisso (Parent or older sibling read aloud)**

Breathtaking. This beautifully illustrated fairy tale is based on a true story, and there's no better way to show your little ones the importance of a Mass. (38 pp.)

(Required for grade two)

***The King of the Golden City*, Mother Mary Loyola (Parent or older sibling read aloud)**

This is a great story for the whole family, a fascinating tale which breathes into the heart of the child a deep understanding of Holy Communion, and fosters a profound love for Our Lord in the Blessed Sacrament. (120 pp.)

Historical Fiction

***The Boston Tea Party*, Steven Kroll**

This beautifully illustrated children's book does a remarkable job of explaining the events that led to the Boston Tea Party. A young student truly acquires a sense of the need for the colonies' separation from English rule. A must-have for every young historian's bookshelf! (32 pp.)

***Where Was Patrick Henry on the 29th of May?* Jean Fritz**

This charming children's book explores the life of this famous American, beginning in his early childhood. (48 pp.)

***Tutankhamen's Gift*, Robert Sabuda**

Written on what looks and feels like actual papyrus, this story brings the reign of King Tut to life. Easily read by a second-grader. Historical fiction at its best. (32 pgs.)

***The Sword in the Tree*, Robert Clyde Bulla**

This story is set in the time of knights and castles, and is told through the eyes of Shan, who dreams of being just like his father, the great Lord Weldon! (104 pg.)

Little Bear series

Frog and Toad series

Bread and Jam for Frances, by Lillian Hoban

The Velveteen Rabbit, Marjery Williams

Meet Famous Americans Series – Thomas Jefferson

Who was...Helen Keller, Harriet Tubman, Ben Franklin, Thomas Jefferson, etc., Gare Thompson

Choose a variety of saint biographies and other books from the Academy library or your Rockford Public Library.

Grades Three and Four Illinois & Norse Explorations to the Revolutionary War

Religious (Required)

Grade Three: *Patron Saint of First Communicants*, Mary Fabyan Windeatt

Grade Four: *The Miraculous Medal*, Mary Fabyan Windeatt

Historical fiction (Required)

Leif the Lucky, D' Aulaire

Literature (Required)

Little House in the Big Woods, Laura Ingalls

Literature and fiction (Choose one)

Encyclopedia Brown series

Fear in the Forest, Cateau De Leeuw

Grandma's Attic series, Arieta Richardson

Happy Little Family series, Rebecca Caudill

Boxcar Children series, Gertrude Chandler Warner

Childhood of Famous Americans Series (Betsy Ross, Benjamin Franklin, Daniel Boone, Robert E. Lee, Clara Barton)

Baby Island, Carol Ryrie Brink

Sarah Plain and Tall, Patricia MacLachlan

The Josephina Story Quilt, Eleanor Coerr

The Drinking Gourd, F.N. Monjo

Keep the Lights Burning Abbie, Peter and Connie Roop

Madeleine Takes Command, Ethel Brill

Justin Morgan Had a Horse, Marguerite Henry

A Lion to Guard Us, Clyde Robert Bulla

The Trumpet of the Swan, E.B. White

Stuart Little, E.B. White

Mary Poppins, P.L. Travers

Black Beauty, Anna Sewell

Alice in Wonderland, Lewis Carroll

Rumpelstiltskin, retold by Paul O. Zelinsky

The Borrowers, Mary Norton

Books by Edward Eager

Recommended - Age of Exploration

The Vikings, Elizabeth Janeway

The Story of Rolf and the Viking Bow, Allen French

The Black Fox of Lorne, Marguerite de Angeli

Door to the North, Elizabeth Coatsworth

Leif Ericson, William Steele

He Went with Marco Polo, Louise Andrews Kent

He Went with Vasco da Gama, Louise Andrews Kent

Columbus, Ingri and Edgar D' Aulaire

Columbus and the New World, August Derleth

Cortez of Mexico, Ronald Syme

Balboa Discovers the Pacific, Jeannette Mirsky

Ferdinand Magellan, Ronald Welch

Ship's Boy with Magellan, Milton Lomosk

Champlain of the St. Lawrence, Ronald Syme

The Landing of the Pilgrims, James Daugherty

Fear in the Forest, Cateau De Leeuw

Recommended: Grades Three-Four - Age of Exploration (Continued)

Cross among the Tomahawks, Milton Lomask

Sing in the Dark, Maude Thomas

Indian Captive, Lois Lenski

Captured by the Mohawks, Sterling North

Battle for the Rock, Joseph Schull

The Explorations of Pere Marquette, Jim Kjelgaard

Crusaders of the Great River, Fr. William Doty

The Cross in the West, Mark Boesch

Fr. Junipero Serra, Ivy Bolton

Father Kino, Priest to the Pimas, Ann Clark

Grades Five and Six World Cultures & Geography

Religious (Required)

St. Benedict, Vision Books or Mary Fabyan Windeatt

Historical fiction (Required)

Archimedes and the Door of Science, Jeanne Bendick

Literature (Choose two)

Heidi, Spyri

The 39 Steps, John Buchan

Flint's Island, Leonard Wibberly

Island of the Blue Dolphins, Scott O'Dell

The Great Brain, John Fitzgerald

The Black Cauldron, Lloyd Alexander

Captains Courageous, Rudyard Kipling

Fingal's Quest, Madeleine Polland

Kon-Tiki, Thor Heyerdahl

The Secret of Pooduck Island, Alfred Noyes

Swiss Family Robinson, Johann David Wyss

The Mitchells series, Hilda von Stockum

The Moffats series, Eleanor Estes

The Bantry Bay series, Hilda von Stockum

Highly Recommended (optional)

Swallows and Amazons, Arthur Ransome

City of the Golden House, Madeleine Polland

Victory on the Walls, Frieda Clark Hyman

Big John's Secret, Eleanore M. Jewett

Beorn the Proud, Madeleine Polland

The Winged Watchmen, Hilda von Stockum

If All the Swords in England, Barbara Willard

Adam of the Road, Elizabeth Janet Gray

The Story of Rolf and the Viking Bow, Allen French

The Red Keep, Allen French

Red Hugh, Prince of Donegal, Robert Reilly

I, Juan de Pareja, Elizabeth Borton de Trevino

Outlaws of Ravenhurst, Sr. M. Imelda Wallace

Mara, Daughter of the Nile, Eloise Jarvis McGraw

Golden Goblet, Eloise Jarvis McGraw

The Story of the Amulet Pyramid, Macaulay

Shadow Hawk, Andre Norton

God King, Joanne Williamson

Pharaohs of Ancient Egypt, Elizabeth Payne

Twenty and Ten, Claire Huchet Bishop

Enemy Brothers, Constance Savery

Books by Edward Eager