



## MIDDLE SCHOOL SUMMER READING PROGRAM

Dear Parents/Guardians and Students,

The summer reading program in the West Chester Area School District (WCASD) aims to help students practice reading and writing skills through the entire calendar year.

**WHAT IS THE EXPECTATION?** All students will independently select a fiction or non-fiction novel to read. Texts should be within the students' reading ability, grade level, and reading level. The websites listed below, along with guidance from teachers and librarians can help a student select a "just right" text – a text that is not too difficult, but one that challenges the student at his or her present ability.

**WHERE DO WE GET THE BOOK?** While it is helpful, it is certainly not required that students purchase their text. Because the WCASD supports academic choice in reading, the school library or the Chester County Library System should have titles in which students are interested.

**WILL THERE BE AN ASSIGNMENT?** There will be an assignment for students to complete upon returning to school. We encourage the practice of text-annotation through post-it notes and reading journals.

**HOW DO STUDENTS SELECT APPROPRIATE TITLES TO READ?** Research shows that managed, academic choice in reading serves students most effectively. Below are author suggestions and websites meant to assist students in appropriate text selection.

### **SUGGESTIONS TO ASSIST IN MANAGED, ACADEMIC CHOICE:**

- Select a genre of interest to the student (i.e. mystery, historical fiction, non-fiction, biography).
- Select a topic or theme that interests the student.
- Select a non-fiction text that relates to a hobby or a career in which the student has interest.
- Select a book by an author which a student has enjoyed reading in the past.
- Select a book by a similar author or about similar topics they have previously enjoyed.
- Select a book that is completely new to the student. Help students by broadening their horizons!

### **WEBSITES:**

- We Need Diverse Books: <https://diversebooks.org/our-programs/walter-award/>
- Young Adult Library Services Association: <http://www.ala.org/yalsa/booklistsawards/booklists>
- KidsReads: <http://www.kidsreads.com/>
- National Education Association: <http://www.nea.org/grants/61763.htm>
- NCTE Young Adult Literature Podcast: <http://www.readwritethink.org/parent-afterschool-resources/podcast-series/text-messages-recommendations-adolescent-30214.html>

We hope this document helps you and your student(s) enjoy their summer reading experience!

Sincerely,

The West Chester Area School District English/Language Arts Department