

Dear Eighth Grade Class

I am really looking forward to seeing you again, as eighth graders this time. Along with sleeping, sunning, and swimming, I hope you continue to take the time to read and write over this summer. I believe that summertime, especially during your youthful years, should be carefree. Of course, I also think you should read and write often because, as with your body, your mind needs exercise to stay healthy as well.

I would like every incoming 8<sup>th</sup> grader to read Seedfolks by Paul Fleischman at some point this summer and then write a short summary of the book, no longer than a page. Also record what you think is the best line in the story. This little fiction reveals through thirteen different points of view how a little seed can offer hope, but through working together things can truly blossom. The novel will be used in the first weeks of school to review certain reading strategies such as making connections and drawing inferences.

Attached is also a list of other age appropriate *suggestions* for this summer. Whether you choose to read these books or others of your own choice doesn't really matter as long as you read. Schlow Library, along with many websites, has great recommendations as well.

A good goal would be to read for a minimum of one half hour in the morning and another half hour before going to sleep. Once again, when you return in September, please bring a log of all the books you read over the summer. Choose one of your books besides Seedfolks and write a recommendation for it. To do this, just fold a piece of paper in half so that it opens like a book. On the outside draw a cover with the name of the book, author, and your own name along with an illustration. Then on the inside write, type, or print your recommendation convincing your classmates to read your summer favorite. We will hang these up on the first day of school to advertise great books for our friends to choose from for their September literature log letters.

To be successful at anything, you need to practice. Whether you are into running, rowing, or writing, practice makes perfect. Just as I want you to read what you will enjoy this summer, I would like you to write about what you enjoy as well. Again, it doesn't matter how you write or what you write about, as long as you write something. Keep a journal of things you

observe or do. Send a memo to an author telling them what you think of their books, and they may even write back to you. Write a song, story, or poem. Write a letter to a friend and maybe you will receive in return. Whether through email or snail mail, it is fun to send and receive. Along with your book jacket recommendations, please feel free to bring in any other pieces of writing that you do over the summer. I am really looking forward to seeing your logs, recommendations, and most of all you in September.

In the meantime, Happy Summer!!! ☺ Mrs. Brandimarte

Student A = 60 min. x 90 days = 5400 minutes or 90 hours of reading  
Student B = 30 min. x 90 days = 2700 minutes or 45 hours of reading  
Student C = 30 min. x 15 days = 450 minutes or 7.5 hours of reading  
Student D = 0 min. x 90 days = 0 min. of reading this summer

Which Student will you be by the end of the summer?

Now is the time to plan for reading enjoyment and.....

middle school success!