



Manhasset Public Schools

“Excellence through Effort”

*Dr. Patrick E. O’Reilly
District Coordinator for English Language Arts K-12*

Dear Members of the Manhasset School Community:

A good book is often a great friend; the pleasure of reading enriches those who embrace a life-long love of stories, poems, plays and insights to our world.. Through reading we open our minds to explorations of the unknown, we gain a better understanding of events of our day, and we discover worlds of wonder alive in our imaginations. Simply put, through reading we know, and when we know, we grow.

The New York State adoption of the Common Core Learning Standards (CCLS) resulted in a paradigm shift in how we develop curriculum across all subjects, especially in English, science and social studies. The goal of the Common Core is to foster greater literacy by having students read content-rich, high level works of both fiction and non-fiction: novels, memoirs, science and social studies related books, as well as essays and articles. All provide a reservoir of fine material from which students can draw their reading preferences.

Each year we distribute a summer reading list for students entering grades 7-12 in the Manhasset Public Schools. For 2014, to continue aligning summer reading with the paradigm shift of the Common Core, the English Department indicates, by course level, title(s) that will be taught or referenced in each course next year. These are “prerequisite” titles; students are expected to read, prior to the start of school in September, the books for the English course in which they are enrolled; this reading will give your child an advantage in English insofar as these titles will frame the instructional themes of the class or will be taught directly during the school year. We also strongly urge students to develop their own leisure summer reading list. To this end, you will find the names of reputable websites on the suggested reading page that will allow youngsters to select from among hundreds of suggested titles. In addition, both the Social Studies and Science Departments indicate timely and topical subject-specific titles on the suggested reading list. We offer all these recommendations to enhance the overall reading experience for students in the Manhasset Public Schools. We propose, given Manhasset’s school motto, *Excellence through Effort*, that excellence is best achieved when the motivation for it is internalized. We wish Manhasset students to internalize the value of reading by completing the prerequisite books and selecting a broad range of titles from the suggested websites and lists.

Students may purchase any titles from local bookstores, obtain them from the Manhasset Public Library, or, on a limited basis, borrow prerequisite, boldfaced titles from the English Department. *Purchasing titles is strongly encouraged when possible, as it allows for greater interactive reading and note-taking in the text, both over the summer and at the start of the school year.* As a reminder, we will not be assessing summer reading by having students account for their reading within the first few days of English class in the form of a test or essay. Rather, we are suggesting students read as much as possible, with a particular emphasis on the boldfaced titles which will be referenced or taught in English courses and which students will have an opportunity to include in responses in their English classes. Students wishing to borrow a copy of boldfaced titles may come to the Secondary School Writing Center, Room 277 in the Middle School from June 16th to June 20th between the hours of 7:30-11:15 or 12:00 noon to 2:30 p.m. to reserve a copy. If available, prerequisite books may be picked up then, or students will be asked to obtain the book(s) from the Writing Center on June 23, 24 or 25 between 10:00 a.m. and 2:30 p.m. Borrowed copies must be returned in September or, in the event of loss, paid for by the student.

In addition to the prerequisite titles list for English and suggested titles and available resources for English, social studies and science reading, a separate listing in this mailing directs parents and students to required social studies readings for specific courses in 2014-15. Please note this letter, from Mara Steindam, District Coordinator for Social Studies, indicates the link on the Manhasset Schools website for detailed information regarding those readings. You may contact Ms. Steindam for more information about the *Social Studies Department: Required Summer Reading and Assignments 2014* listing in this mailing.

The strongest summer reading list each student develops will include selections based on interest, curiosity, and enjoyment. We encourage parental participation in our recommended summer reading program as well; whether your family is on a plane, train, or on the road this summer, reading will indeed lead to the home where knowledge, insight and the joy of a good book reside.

Sincerely,

Patrick E. O'Reilly

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