

St. Francis de Sales Catholic Academy

"A Faith Filled Future"

Christopher Scharbach
Principal

June 2022

Dear 5th-8th Grade Families,

As we enter into these much-needed summer months, we want to reinforce that the **best** thing you can do to prepare your child for the upcoming school year is to make reading a priority and a routine in your home.

The more your child reads, and is read to, the more your child's network of knowledge strengthens. It not only is "preparing them for the next grade," but also improves their ability to focus, builds reading stamina, broadens their vocabulary, and strengthens their ability to make connections, draw conclusions, and better understand the world around them. Reading daily 30 minutes a day is an investment for a lifetime.

When looking at your summer schedules and trying to balance it all, please remember to make reading a priority. Your child's teacher will give a list of titles that your child should choose from to read over the summer and complete an accompanying assignment. Of course, they may also read books beyond this list for their own reading leisure. We believe strongly in the summer months being a time of continuing sound academic habits and routines.

For our returning students, you will continue to have access to your i-Ready account over the summer, until mid-august when the Diocese will begin to rollover data for the upcoming school year. We encourage you to take advantage of i-Ready as a customized learning tool that will help students stay engaged and academically attuned over the summer. Students and families can decide if they would like to continue to use the MyPath i-Ready lessons in math and reading this summer.

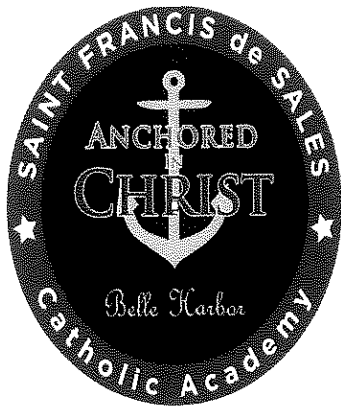
Enjoy your summer and know that we can't wait to see you in the Fall!

Mr. Scharbach

While we are away from school during the summer we would love for the students to share their travels and new discoveries with us. As your family visits new places, send the school a postcard to share your experiences! This will give the students a fun opportunity to work on their writing skills over the summer. When we return back to school in September, your postcards will be displayed in the school. We look forward to hearing from you over the summer!

Please mail postcards to:

St. Francis de Sales Catholic Academy
219 Beach 129th Street
Belle Harbor, NY 11694



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"The Rose is in Sight"

Dear Class of 2023,

As this school year comes to an end we suggest you reflect back, take note of all your accomplishments and strive to not only repeat those academic achievements but work even harder to surpass them! For those situations where you may not have given your best effort, you owe it to yourself to do better.

During the summer:

1. Stay informed. Keep up with current events; read newspapers, magazines and watch local and national news broadcasts.
2. TACHS exam comes quickly. Be sure to enroll in a prep class and make full use of that time.
3. Consider your high school choices. Use each school's website as a research tool. If you are in Regents classes, contact your high school(s) for more information concerning Grade 9 class schedules.

In September:

1. Promise yourself to "end strong" academically.
2. Get involved and stay involved; volunteer for class events and school activities.
3. Stay on top of your assignments; manage your time wisely and utilize the Class Page on the school website.
4. Be kind and treat all with respect; we are SFDS and SFDS is our Home away from Home.

Have a wonderful, safe summer. We are looking forward to working with you and your child in September.

The Top Floor Teachers

St. Francis de Sales Catholic Academy

"A Faith Filled Future"

2022-2023

St. Francis De Sales Grade 8 Book/Supply List

7 notebooks (no spirals)	2 Sharpies
5 folders	1- 5 pocket accordion folder (Science)
1 pkg. loose leaf	1 large book sox
colored pencils	markers
1 pkg pipe cleaners (STEM)	single hole puncher (STEM)
6 pens - blue or black ink	4 # 2 pencils (sharpened)
1 pkg eraser toppers	highlighters (green & purple are suggested)
Boys: hand sanitizer (pump)	Girls: hand soap (pump)
4 rolls Bounty paper towels	2 containers Clorox wipes
4 boxes tissues	\$5.00 Science lab fee
TI-84 Plus CE Calculator	

ALL 8th Graders (Both 8R and 8S): "Barron's Review Course Series Let's Review: Earth Science The Physical Setting" (approx \$15.00, soft cover & est. 774 pages) Please wait until **August 15th** to purchase, just in case a new edition is published. I will email around 8/15 with an update to this order.

*TI84 Plus CE calculator (watch for sales in Target, end of July)

All supplies other than paper towels, Clorox wipes and tissues should be brought in on the first day of school.

The Top Floor Teachers

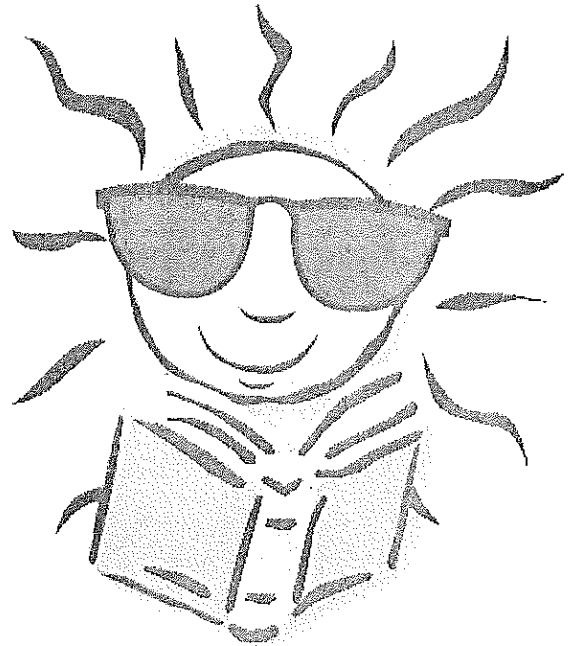
Rising 8th Grade Summer Reading 2022

Summer reading should be both thought-provoking and pleasurable. With that in mind, this summer, to prepare you for grade 8, you will read two books from the list of books on the following page.

Book 1: Everyone will read the text that is highlighted in yellow, *The Little Prince*. We will be discussing this book when you return to school in September. Please read it closely, identifying key quotes, circling key vocabulary, and thinking deeply about the characters and how they develop throughout the fable.

Book 2: You may pick from the titles on the list attached. You will also choose one of the accompanied essay prompts to complete after finishing the text of your choice.

Of course, please read as much as you can outside of these two novels. It is recommended that you read daily for at least 30 minutes.



8th Grade Summer Reading Texts

Call of the Wild by Jack London

First published in 1903, *The Call of the Wild* is regarded as Jack London's masterpiece. Based on London's experiences as a gold prospector in the Canadian wilderness and his ideas about nature and the struggle for existence, *The Call of the Wild* is a tale about unbreakable spirit and the fight for survival in the frozen Alaskan Klondike.

Crash by Jerry Spinnelli

Meet Crash Coogan. Crash seems to be all brawn and no brains, but he will need more than mere muscles to face the upcoming challenges in his life. Now available in paperback, Award-winner Jerry Spinelli has created a hilarious, poignant story of a sly seventh-grade super-jock.

Out of the Dust by Karen Heese

When Billie Jo is just fourteen she must endure heart-wrenching ordeals that no child should have to face. The quiet strength she displays while dealing with unspeakable loss is as surprising as it is inspiring. Written in free verse, this award-winning story is set in the heart of the Great Depression. It chronicles Oklahoma's staggering dust storms, and the environmental--and emotional--turmoil they leave in their path. An unforgettable tribute to hope and inner strength.

The Little Prince by Antoine de St. Exupery

Moral allegory and spiritual autobiography, *The Little Prince* is the most translated book in the French language. With a timeless charm it tells the story of a little boy who leaves the safety of his own tiny planet to travel the universe, learning the vagaries of adult behavior through a series of extraordinary encounters. His personal odyssey culminates in a voyage to Earth and further adventures.

The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle

The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes is the series of short stories that made the fortunes of the Strand magazine, in which they were first published, and won immense popularity for Sherlock Holmes and Dr Watson. The detective is at the height of his powers and the volume is full of famous cases, including 'The Red-Headed League', 'The Blue Carbuncle', and 'The Speckled Band'.

Little Women by Louisa May Alcott

Generations of readers young and old, male and female, have fallen in love with the March sisters of Louisa May Alcott's most popular and enduring novel, *Little Women*. Here are talented tomboy and author-to-be Jo, tragically frail Beth, beautiful Meg, and romantic, spoiled Amy, united in their devotion to each other and their struggles to survive in New England during the Civil War.

Where the Red Fern Grows by Wilson Rawls

A loving threesome, they ranged the dark hills and river bottoms of Cherokee country. Old Dan had the brawn. Little Ann had the brains, and Billy had the will to make them into the finest hunting team in the valley. Glory and victory were coming to them, but sadness waited too. *Where the Red Fern Grows* is an exciting tale of love and adventure you'll never forget.

The Hobbit by J.R.R.Tolkien

In a hole in the ground there lived a hobbit. Not a nasty, dirty, wet hole, filled with the ends of worms and an oozy smell, nor yet a dry, bare, sandy hole with nothing in it to sit down on or to eat: it was a hobbit-hole, and that means comfort. Written for J.R.R. Tolkien's own children, *The Hobbit* met with instant critical acclaim when it was first published in 1937.

Summer Reading Essay Prompts

After reading your self-selected text from the list provided, choose one of the prompts below and compose a well-constructed, cohesive, five paragraph essay. Please identify the book and author in the first paragraph.

Your essay must include an introduction, body, and conclusion. The structure will look like this:

Paragraph 1: Introduction

Paragraph 2: Body

Paragraph 3: Body

Paragraph 4: Body

Paragraph 5: Conclusion

Be sure to utilize specific examples from the text to support a clear thesis statement. **You must include at least three direct quotations from the text in your essay as part of your evidence, citing the page number on which each was found.** A rubric has been provided for you.

Prompt 1:

Often in works of literature, something positive can emerge from a difficult situation. Think of the book you read and how something positive resulted from a difficult situation. In a well-developed essay, describe the situation, and explain how something positive emerges from it.

Prompt 2:

In a work of literature, is not unusual for a key character to stand up for something she/he believes in. Select a character from your book who stands up for something she/he believes in. In a well-developed essay, identify the character, describe how the character stands up for something she/he believes in, and explain how the character's actions relate to the work as a whole.

Prompt 3:

Setting is often integral to the plot. It may, for example, symbolize a larger idea or theme. Or a change in setting may signify a shift in a key character or in relationships between characters. Write an essay discussing the significance of the setting in your book. How is the setting significant? What might it symbolize? How do changes in setting impact the overall meaning of the work?

Prompt 4:

Many readers identify with specific characters when reading a piece of literature. Sometimes readers identify with a character because they share similar characteristics or interests or because they admire that character and want to be more like that person. Select a character from the book you read and explain how you identify with that particular character. Explain the most important ways that you are similar to that character or why you admire the character and want to be more like her/him.

Prompt 5:

The *coming of age* theme is very popular in literature. This term refers to an adolescent boy or girl going through difficult, life-altering experiences in order to ultimately reach adulthood. Using the book you read, discuss this theme. In a well-composed essay, describe you a young character overcomes obstacles, while “growing up” in the process.

Dear Class of 2023,

Welcome Back. Your Summer Math assignment will be different this year. Every Monday you will receive a quizziz to do. It will be due by Friday at 5 PM. You have 4 attempts to take the quiz, if you get a 100%, you do not have to attempt it again. If you do not get a 100% you must attempt again until you get a 100% or you tried 4 times. I will take your highest score. All of this will be done through classroom. You already have logged into the Grade 7 Math page and into Quizziz.

The dates for assigned quizzes will be:

7/11

7/18

7/25

8/1

8/8

8/15

8/22

If an assignment is not completed it will be graded a 0. Any questions please email me at sfoti@stfrancisschoolbh.net Have a great summer and I look forward to working with you in the Fall.

Mrs. Suellen Foti