

June 2, 2009

Dear Students and Parents of the Seventh Grade,

Ladies and gentlemen, summer time is here again. So put away those school uniforms and break out your flip-flop flops and board shorts. I truly hope your next few months are relaxing and fun. May your summer be filled with running through sprinklers, hanging out in the bleachers at *AT&T Park*, and enjoying those melting, drippy, but "oh-so good" chocolate fudgecicles. Actually, I recommend any type of ice cream, as any type of ice cream pairs well with summer readings.

Whatever you decide to do in order to recharge your battery please just keep in mind that August 26 will be here before you know it, and we are going to need to hit the ground running. Seventh grade will be a big step for you, so make sure you complete your due diligence in efforts to be fully prepared for a great 2009-2010 school year.

Aiding you in this preparation are two required novels that need to be completed by the first day of school:

The Bronze Bow by Elizabeth George Speare (254 pages)  
The Westing Game by Ellen Raskin (216 pages)

Please be ready to demonstrate your recognition and comprehension of themes, characters, and morals from each book. In other words, you will be tested on what you have read. You should strongly consider taking notes in a bullet point format as you read each book.

In addition to the required reading, each of you is expected to complete other books of your choosing for a combined total of at least 750 pages. Please note that you will already have 470 of those pages read upon completing the two requirements. This means that only 310 pages remain for your summer reading requirement. Any books you select to fulfill this quota must be at a seventh grade reading level. Please use [www.bookadventure.com](http://www.bookadventure.com) to aide you in choosing a seventh grade caliber book.

It is also very important that you keep up with your math skills this summer. The pre-algebra curriculum is challenging, and it will be a great help to Mr. McLoughlin and yourself if you come back from summer ready to go. It is expected that you are proficient with your multiplication facts. Flashcards are a tried and true way of reinforcing computation skills. However, you can also use math games to give you a boost as well. Such games can include, but are not limited to:

*Boom*

*Red card/Black card*- This is the game where you use a deck of cards to add positive and negative integers together. Remember that black cards are positive numbers, and red cards are negative numbers. The "ace" is worth one point, Jacks are eleven, Queens are twelve, and Kings are thirteen. Square off head to head, challenge yourself, or try it in a group.

*Road-trip 500*- If you plan on doing any traveling then this is a great game for the car (and it is less painful than *Slug Bug*). Take the numbers that you see on license plates and add/multiply them together. The first to 500 wins.

Your supply list for the year is attached. Please make sure that you have all of your essentials on that wonderful first day of school. Enjoy your twelve weeks of free dress, and please be helpers to your parents. I am looking forward to seeing your bright, smiling faces in the seventh grade line on August 26, 8:00 a.m. sharp.

Blessings,

Mr. Jeff Harper  
Seventh Grade Homeroom