

Fairfax County Public Schools
Hayfield Secondary School



HAWKS

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May 1, 2009

Dear Parents and Students;

This year, Hayfield Secondary School will continue its support of the Fairfax County Public Schools' initiative for summer reading. We believe that reading throughout the year is important, and we recommend that students read at least three books over the summer to keep their reading skills sharp. Each student is required to read at least one book.

It is also important that students have a choice in selecting their books. Fairfax County Public Schools (FCPS) has moved from a list of specific titles to a genre-based assignment for which students at each grade level may choose their own selections within a framework based on the English Program of Studies:

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| Rising Ninth Grade Students: | Read a mystery, science fiction, fantasy, western/adventure, or historical fiction novel. |
| Rising Tenth Grade Students: | Read a non-fiction book. Nonfiction may include autobiography, biography, history, humor, or an informational book. |
| Rising Eleventh Grade Students: | Read a novel or memoir by an American author. |
| Rising Twelfth Grade Students: | Read a novel or memoir by a non-American author. |

Recent reports from the National Council of Teachers of English describe guided student choice as a key component in successful summer reading. We hope that greater freedom to choose their own titles will increase students' interest in reading and will lead to greater overall achievement.

Reading is crucial to academic achievement and we urge you to encourage your child to read many books, magazines, and newspaper articles over the summer months. FCPS librarians assisted in the development of a resource list that describes databases and websites that students and families can use to help with the selection of appropriate and interesting titles for summer reading. Go to <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library/goodreading.htm> or NoveList, a FCPS school database, for suggestions. We hope that parents will be involved in guiding their children in making good choices for their reading.

At the beginning of each English course during the 2009-10 academic year, students will complete a writing assignment about their summer reading. Parents and students should sign the "Summer Reading Verification Form" which will be sent in August with the "Back to School" materials. Return this form to your student's English teacher in September.

We appreciate your help as we all work together to support the academic program at our school. Happy Reading!

Sincerely,
Bill Oehrlein, Ph.D.
Principal

Mrs. Theresa Poquis
English Department Chair