



NEW PALTZ MIDDLE SCHOOL

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Dr. Richard Wiesenthal
Principal

Mr. Anthony Tantillo
Assistant Principal

June 2012

Dear Incoming Eighth Grade English Students, Parents, and Guardians:

Reading and writing are essential skills to your academic career. In eighth grade, we are committed to enhancing your reading and writing skills throughout the year with in-class and independent reading assignments. For your summer reading assignment, please choose two titles that you have never read before that are appropriate choices for you at this point in your academic career. These books cannot be on the reading log that you did for your 6th and 7th grade years. You will read these books before school starts in September.

While you are reading, please use the enclosed form to take notes in preparation for a book talk. Your book talk will take place in September and will be included in your average for first quarter. We will spend time at the beginning of the year discussing what a book talk is, what should be included, and how to be successful. In the meantime, it is most important that you read two titles that you enjoy and would suggest to others.

Between October and May of the 2012-2013 school year, you will continue to read independently. As you explore titles for summer, you may want to start a list of titles you would like to read in the future. It is essential that parents and guardians play an active role in their child's reading and in deciding what is or is not appropriate for their child's specific maturity and reading levels.

The 8th grade supply list is on the opposite side of this letter. We hope you have a wonderful summer and look forward to meeting you in the fall!

Sincerely,

Mrs. Denman and Mrs. Sullivan
Eighth Grade English Teachers

(over)

Book Talk Notes

Name _____

Use this page to keep track of information about your independent reading that you might include in a book talk. **Feel free to use additional paper to be thorough.**

Title _____

Author _____ # of pages _____

Category: Fiction Verse Nonfiction Graphic Narrative Memoir

Part of a Series: Yes No If Yes, name of series or other books:

Issues Addressed: Stereotyping Sex or Race Biases Bullying Relationships
Substance Abuse Technology School Death/Grieving
Physical/Mental Illnesses Other: _____

What is interesting about the cover? (If reading electronically, look up an image of the cover).

Conflict (problem for main character):

Inciting Incident (event that sets the conflict in motion):

Rising Action (things that complicate the problem further):

Setting:

Narrator/Point of View:

Characters: ages, names, relationships

Passages to Note (examples of really good or interesting writing):

| Page # and paragraph #(s) | Passage or Summary | What You Noticed/Why Stood Out |
|---------------------------|--------------------|--------------------------------|
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8th Grade Supply List
2012-2013 School Year

For Regular Academic Subjects (English, Foreign Language, Math, Science, Social Studies):

- Binders
- Folders
- Loose Leaf
- Dividers
- Pens (black or blue ink)
- Pencils
- Highlighters
- Post-It Notes

Additional:

- 2 Composition Books (1 for Science, 1 for Spanish)
- Scientific calculator - (Texas Instrument 30X II S preferred, approximate cost is \$15)

OR

If enrolled in Math 8 Acc (Integrated Algebra)- Texas Instruments Graphing Calculator (Model: TI-83, TI-84 or TI-84 Plus). This calculator will also be used for several years at the high School level as well. These calculators are significantly less expensive during the early part of summer.