



Jericho Middle School

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June 14, 2007

Dear Parents and Guardians:

This year we are beginning a new program designed to encourage our incoming 7th and 8th grade students to read independently over the summer. Those students who choose to participate in this program will be recognized as *Jericho Middle School Literacy Leaders* and be invited to participate in a special event when we return to school in September.

In order to become a Literacy Leader, students will need to read three books from the *Literacy Leaders' Summer Reading List* and either participate in three online discussions about the books or submit reading reaction forms for the three books they read.

The list of books, required forms, and instructions about how to participate in the online discussions are available from the JMS Library Website:

<http://www.jerichoschools.org/ms/library/literacyleaders.htm>

Our Middle School Library Media Specialists developed this book list from titles recommended by the American Library Association and professional journals. Some of the titles on this list are suitable for mature readers, due to content and reading level. Parents know their children best and should take the time to help them choose an appropriate title. Parents may wish to read these books with their child and use this as an opportunity to discuss important issues.

New York State standards suggest that students read approximately 25 books per year. Professional journals recommend that students read upwards of six (6) books during the summer to maintain a student's reading skills (*Instructor*, May-June 2003).

The public library has a copy of this list and will be happy to help your children select books. The books are also available from online booksellers.

During the summer, I will host Readers Breakfasts for students who wish to drop in and talk about the books they are reading (how does chocolate chip pancakes sound?). The breakfasts will take place at 9:00 a.m. in the middle school library on the following dates: July 11 and August 21. Please call Mrs. Goldman (203-3620) if you plan to attend.

Reading is one of the great things to do while taking a break from school. We hope that all of our students will read three or more books to participate in the Summer Literacy Leaders Program.

I hope that you and your family have a happy and safe summer. We are looking forward to seeing you and your children again in September.

Sincerely,

Donald F. Gately

Donald F. Gately
Principal

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