

Pleasantville High School

Dr. Gloria Grantham
Superintendent
Howard Johnson
Principal



Cynthia Ruiz Cooper
Assistant Principal
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Nanette Stuart
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Summer Reading Assignment

Dear Parents,

Pleasantville High School, in a commitment to improving education, has instituted an independent summer reading program for students. Many schools across the country have successfully instituted summer reading programs. Studies show that students who read books over the summer show gains in school the following year—and the more students read, the larger those gains become.

Requirements

- Academic English students will be required to read **one book** chosen for the grade they will be entering in the fall; honors students will need to read **the same book, plus an additional book** listed for the grade they will be entering. English 4 AP students are required to read **three books** to meet the requisites for reading and writing in that course. A suggested list of sixteen books has also been included for students who would like additional reading. The suggested books include books by the same author as the required reading and also of similar content and quality.
- Keeping a **Summer Reading Notebook** may help guide you to make effective notes of important information about the book. Students are reminded that **taking notes** while reading is the best way to be sure you remember what you read. Reading logs help you interact with the text in ways that deepen your understanding of what you read. While you read, you create meaning, predict new ideas, discard ideas that are proven wrong or that do not fit with the text, and integrate new information to make new meaning. Understanding a novel is not something that is done all at once; rather, it is a process that jumps around while you add your background knowledge and keep combining what you already know about the text, other texts, and the world you live in with new ideas while you read.
- Attached to the summer reading list is a list of project choices that students must choose from and complete after reading their assigned book(s). **One project must be completed for each required book read.** The list of projects is designed to target the different learning styles and interests of students. Students will be required to submit the completed project(s) to their English teacher by the end of the second week of school in September. **The project will count 5% toward the student's first marking period grade.**

Attached you will find the list of required summer reading books by grade level. (The list is also available on the district website at <http://www.pps-nj.us/pps/>). Each of the books on the list have been selected based on interest, genre, content, and readability levels and most are available at the Pleasantville Public Library, through the Atlantic County Library System (ask the librarian), or at Borders. They can also be purchased at discounted prices at www.half.com, www.overstock.com, www.amazon.com, and www.cheapestbook.com. Pleasantville High School will also have available this

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summer a Lending Library, where students can check out book titles for a two week period to complete their summer reading requirement. The Lending Library will be open on **Mondays** during the summer on **July 12, 19, 26,** and **August 2, 9, and 16.** A **five dollar deposit** will be required for each book borrowed, and the deposit will be returned to the student when the book is returned **on time** and **in the same condition** it was borrowed. The number of books available for lending is limited so it is important to plan early to obtain books.

Your help and support in encouraging and supporting your child to read their required reading will help maintain and enhance the growth he/she has made in both reading and writing this past school year, and prepare him/her for the year ahead.

Thank you in advance, and have a safe and happy summer,

Howard Johnson
Principal, Pleasantville High School