# DOHERTY MIDDLE SCHOOL

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# Middle School Summer Reading Program

June 2012

### Dear Parents/Guardians:

The English Department is happy to announce the selection and guidelines for the 2012 Summer Reading Program. All middle school students, including incoming 6<sup>th</sup> grade students, will participate in this program.

This year, students will be required to read one assigned book. In addition to reading the selection, students will complete an in-class assignment in September. Students can bring in notes and/or the text to help them complete the assignment, but this will not be expected or necessary.

The titles and descriptions for this year's summer reading are:

# 6<sup>th</sup> graders: **The Lightning Thief** by Rick Riordan

Percy sets out on a quest across the United States to reach the gates of the Underworld (located in a recording studio in Hollywood) and prevent a catastrophic war between the gods.

# 7<sup>th</sup> grade: **Running Out of Time** by Margaret Peterson Haddix

Jessie lives with her family in the frontier village of Clifton, Indiana. When diphtheria strikes the village and the children of Clifton start dying. Jessie's mother sends her on a dangerous mission to bring back help.

# 8<sup>th</sup> grade: **Touching Spirit Bear** by Ben Mikaelsen

After his anger erupts into violence, Cole, in order to avoid going to prison, agrees to participate in a sentencing alternative based on the native American Circle Justice, and he is sent to a remote Alaskan Island where an encounter with a huge Spirit Bear changes his life.

The goals for the summer reading program are as follows:

- To promote active reading and thinking during the summer months
- To expose students to quality literature that is not part of the core curriculum
- To promote reading as a life-long interest

The English/Language Arts Department is aware of the busy summer schedules of Andover families. We believe that reading enhances a student's time away from school and improves critical thinking and imagination. Although not required, below is a list of other recommended books to read. We hope that your child enjoys the reading and even chooses to read beyond the required list. We appreciate all your support.

Sincerely,

Middle School English/Language Arts Department

continued...

### **Additional Reading Suggestions:**

#### Sixth Grade Books:

#### **Phantom Tollbooth** by *Norton Juster*

Milo learns the importance of words and numbers, when a mysterious tollbooth appears in his room and provides a cure for his boredom. Milo realizes life is far from dull. In fact, it's exciting beyond his wildest dreams...

#### Secret Garden by Frances Hodgson Burnett

The spoiled orphan Mary Lennox leaves India to live with her cold uncle in his dreary mansion in England. When Mary hears of a secret garden kept locked for ten years, she is determined to find it and tend it back to life.

# Sunlight and Shadow by Cameron Dokey

In a time when the world was young and many things were quite commonplace that are now entirely forgotten, Sarastro, Mage of the Day, wed Pamina, the Queen of the Night. And in this way was the world complete, for light was joined to dark. For all time would they be joined together. Only the ending of the world could tear them apart. In other words, in the days in which my parents married, there was no such thing as divorce....

## Old Yeller byFred Gipson

Strong and courageous, Old Yeller proved that he could protect Travis's family from any sort of danger. But can Travis do the same for Old Yeller?

### **Kidnapped** by Robert Louis Stevenson

In 1751 in Scotland, cheated out of his inheritance by a greedy uncle who has him kidnapped and put on a ship to the Carolinas, seventeen-year-old David Balfour escapes and he attempts to clear his name and regain his property.

#### **Seventh Grade Books:**

#### **Beauty** by Robin McKinley

A retelling of the story of Beauty and the Beast.

### My Dog Skip by Willie Morris

A poignant, beautifully-written account of the relationship between a boy and his dog, growing up in the rural South in the 1940s.

### The Breadwinner by Deborah Ellis

A powerful story about the reality of life under the Taliban.

### The Devil's Arithmetic by Jane Yolen

Hannah resents the traditions of her Jewish heritage until time travel places her in the middle of a small Jewish village in Nazi-occupied Poland.

### The Prince and the Pauper by Mark Twain

A beloved classic about the poor beggar boy and the English prince who exchange identities. Twists and turns in an exciting plot that will thrill young readers and listeners.

# Ender's Game by Orson Scott Card

The Earth is under attack and the survival of the human species depends on a military genius who can defeat the alien "buggers." Recruited for military training, Andrew "Ender" Wiggin's childhood ends the moment he enters his new home: Battle School.

# **Eighth Grade Books:**

#### **Nothing but the Truth** by Avi

A ninth-grader's suspension for singing "The Star-Spangled Banner" during homeroom becomes a national news story.

# Witness by Karen Hesse

A series of poems express the views of various people in a small Vermont town, including a young black girl and a young Jewish girl, during the early 1920s when the Ku Klux Klan is trying to infiltrate the town.

# The Princess Bride by William Goldman

Goldman's classic tale of high adventure, swashbuckling excitement and good-natured silliness.

#### A Connecticut Yankee by Mark Twain

A blow on the head transports a Yankee to 528 A.D. where he proceeds to modernize King Arthur's kingdom by organizing a school system, constructing telephone lines, and inventing the printing press.

### Murder on the Orient Express by Agatha Christie

The debonair Belgian sleuth Hercule Poirot pulls out a few ingenious tricks to trap a killer on an express train across Europe.