

Dear Parents:

Welcome to our summer reading program - **Patriots Read!** Its purpose is to expose our students to good books – books that will enrich the mind, character and spirit of Heritage students during summer break. We want to encourage a lifelong love of reading.

All elementary students (entering grades 1-6) and junior high students (entering grades 7-8) will be required to read two books from the book list for the grade they will be entering in the fall. All high school students (entering grades 9-12) will be required to read one book. Upon completion of the books, parents will fill out the Book Form (attached) indicating the book titles, authors, the student's name and grade he will be entering. A parent signature is **required** to verify that his child read the books indicated. All books can be found in the public library unless otherwise noted. HCS also has many of these books available for loan.

**Students entering grades 1<sup>st</sup> – 4<sup>th</sup>** - Students will select **two** books from their grade's book list. Obviously, *newer* readers will need assistance and you may even read the books to your child. Upon completion of the books, parents simply fill out the Book Form (attached), sign it, and return it to school on the **first day** of school.

**Students entering grades 5<sup>th</sup> - 6<sup>th</sup>** - Students will select **two** books from their book list, read them, and then fill out a questionnaire (attached) for *each* of their books. Parents will complete the Book Form (attached), sign it, and the students should return it along with their questionnaires to their teacher on the **first day** of school. Your fifth or sixth grader is required to read **two** books from the list. These questionnaires will be graded and will be the student's first Language grade. Deduction of points will be made each day it is late. Any student not turning in the forms after one week will receive a zero.

**Students entering grades 7<sup>th</sup> - 8<sup>th</sup>** - Students will select two books from their grade's book list. *One* of the books selected should be from the Christian biography/missions category. Students will then fill out a questionnaire (attached) for *each* of their books. Parents will complete the Book Form (attached), sign it, and the students should return it along with their questionnaires to their homeroom teacher on the **first day** of school. Your seventh or eighth grader is required to read two books from the list, one of which will be from the Christian category. These questionnaires will be graded and will be the student's first English grade. Deduction of points will be made each day it is late. Any student not turning in the forms after one week will receive a zero.

**Students entering grades 9<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup>** - Students will select **one** book from their grade's book list. This should be a book they have never read before. Major and minor characters, plot, and story setting should be included in the essay for fiction books. For nonfiction, a summary and lessons learned should be included.

Students in grades **9<sup>th</sup> - 12<sup>th</sup>** must write a 1-1/2 to 2 page typed, double-spaced essay (use size 12 font). To prepare for this, students should take good notes on the book. Parents will complete the Book Form (attached), sign it, and have the student return it to school, along with his report on the **day** of his **class scheduling**. Students who turn in their work after their class scheduling will receive a deduction of points. Any student not turning in a report within one week of the due date will receive a zero for the assignment. This will be the student's **first English grade** and should get everyone off to a good start.

For **students entering grades 1-4**, the Patriots Read summer program will be for their enrichment. Participating students in grades 1-6 will join in a Patriot Picnic and games during a school-day afternoon.

For **students entering grades 7-12**, the Patriots Read summer program will be applied as their first English grade. Therefore, it is not only for their enrichment, but also a grade. It is an excellent opportunity to begin the school year with an “A.” In turn, those who do not complete the assignment within a week of the due date (the **day of scheduling for 9<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> graders** and the **first day of school for 7<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> graders**) will receive a zero for their first English grade.

Parents, we hope you will share in the Patriots Read program and offer it your full support. Statistics show that students who read are more successful academically.

We hope you'll have a wonderful summer filled with lots of fun and reading!