

May 5, 2011

Dear St. Francis Parents:

All St. Francis students are required to read three books over the summer. The book choices are listed below; together, tests on these books will constitute 15% of your son's/daughter's first quarter grade (5% per book). These tests will be administered during the first week of school; however, students may also come in and take some book tests during the summer, according to the schedule posted at the end of this list. (Please note that next year's juniors taking "Intensive English and Math: Preparing for the College Boards" may take their tests during the summer class and do NOT need to come in on the days listed.) We will not be pre-registering. All tests are walk-in only. **ALL STUDENTS ARE REQUIRED TO BRING \$5 PER TEST. NO EXCEPTIONS.** Please arrive early because we may run out of space. The tests will be first come, first served.

FRESHMAN YEAR (Class of 2015) – Study guides will be available on the SFHS website by June 1, 2011. Students must read **ONE OF TWO** choices on the listed test date and **ALL** must read *Treasure Island*.

1. *Of Mice and Men* by John Steinbeck

OR

2. *Pay It Forward* by Catherine Ryan Hyde
3. *Tangerine* by Edward Bloor

OR

4. *Bean Trees* by Barbara Kingsolver
5. *Treasure Island* by Robert Louis Stevenson (all freshmen must read this novel)

SOPHOMORE YEAR (Class of 2014)

Students must read **ANY THREE** of the following, with the **EXCEPTION** of **HONORS STUDENTS**, who must read **ANY TWO** plus *All Quiet on the Western Front*.

1. *Hound of the Baskervilles* by Arthur Conan Doyle
2. *Mississippi Trial, 1955* by Chris Crowe
3. *The Pearl* by John Steinbeck
4. *The Curious Incident of Dog in the Night-Time* by Mark Haddon
5. *Marley and Me* by John Grogan
6. *All Quiet on the Western Front* by Erich Remarque (required for **HONORS**)

JUNIOR YEAR (Class of 2013)

Students must read **ANY THREE** of the following:

1. *Hungry Tide* by Amitav Ghosh
2. *Selected Tales* by Edgar Allan Poe (Oxford World Classics, 1998). The Oxford edition includes all of the required tales; however, students may read any collection(s) of Poe's stories that includes the following:

“William Wilson”	“The Black Cat”
“The Man in the Crowd”	“The Purloined Letter”
“Eleonora”	“The Cask of Amontillado”
“The Tell-Tale Heart”	“Hop-Frog”
“The Gold Bug”	
3. *Hope in the Unseen* by Ron Suskind
4. *Unquenchable* by Robert Glennon
5. *Best American Science Writing of 2004*, ed. Dava Sobel. Students must read all selections but may skip “Reading Minds” and “Columbia's Last Flight.”
6. *Smashed* by Koren Zailckas

Please note *Smashed* addresses the issue of teenage - especially female - drinking through the eyes of a woman who began drinking at age 14. It contains some graphic language. Parents may wish to read the book first before allowing their own children to read it or forbid its reading altogether.

SENIOR YEAR (Class of 2012)

Students must read **ANY THREE** of the following:

1. *Rebecca* by Daphne du Maurier
2. *Angela's Ashes* by Frank McCourt
3. *My Dog Skip* by Willie Morris
4. *The Painted House* by John Grisham
5. Sherlock Holmes short stories (in *Sherlock Holmes: The Complete Novels and Short Stories, Volume 1*) by Arthur Conan Doyle. However, students may read any Sherlock Holmes' collection which includes the following stories:
"The Final Problem" "The Speckled Band"
"The Solitary Cyclist" "The Red-headed League"
6. *Pride and Prejudice* by Jane Austen

SUMMER TEST SCHEDULE

To help your son/daughter succeed in English for the 2011 – 2012 school year, St. Francis will again offer summer book reading tests during the summer. All tests will be walk-in only; there is no pre-registration. **ALL STUDENTS ARE REQUIRED TO BRING \$5 PER TEST. NO EXCEPTIONS.** The summer book tests being offered are as follows:

Thursday, June 23: Tests will be administered at 12:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m.; tests will be administered **ONLY** on these books:

Freshmen: *Of Mice and Men* OR *Pay It Forward*
Sophomores: *Hound of the Baskervilles* and *Mississippi Trial, 1955*
Juniors: *Smashed* and *Hope in the Unseen*
Seniors: *Angela's Ashes* and Sherlock Holmes short stories

Thursday, July 21: Tests will be administered at 12:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m.; tests will be administered **ONLY** on these books:

Freshmen: *Bean Trees* OR *Tangerine*
Sophomores: *The Curious Incident of Dog in the Night-Time* and *The Pearl*
Juniors: *Hungry Tide* and Poe's *Selected Tales*
Seniors: *Rebecca* and *My Dog Skip*

All book tests will be offered during the first week of the 2011 – 2012 school year.

Because we are offering two tests per date per grade **with the exception of the freshmen**, you may take both of the tests on one test date: however, you must pay \$5 for each test. Members from our English Department and other faculty members will coordinate and administer these tests at St. Francis. The cost is \$5 per test. Please note that these summer tests are **not mandatory**. Similar tests **will be offered during the first week of school**. If a student fails a summer book test (69% or below) he/she can retake a comparable but different test the first week of school. We want our students to succeed and feel that offering these tests during the summer results in both better retention of the material and less stress, especially on incoming freshmen. Please arrive early because there is no pre-registration, and the tests will start promptly at 12:00 and 7:00. Please bring both a pen and a pencil. Please check our website closer to the test dates for further details.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

Janet Marks
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