Brown Middle School Summer Reading

Brown Middle School Families,

This summer, we hope that all of our students will continue to challenge themselves and keep their reading skills sharp by investing time in independent reading.

Studies show us that when students read independently, they increase their vocabulary, their reading comprehension, and their overall academic performance. We can all agree that we want this for our students!

In order to help motivate our students to read more this summer, BMS is requiring that each student read at least one book and submit a project that will be counted as the first ELA grade of the 2020-2021 school year. The project will be due the first week of school. The projects that teachers have chosen are designed to assess where students are with their reading and to help them retain the ELA skills that they have learned over the past year.

BMS will also be hosting a summer reading challenge that will allow students to earn rewards for exceeding the minimum summer reading requirements.

Required Reading Books:

- 6th Grade: *Harbor Me* by Jacqueline Woodson
- 7th Grade: *The Stars Beneath our Feet* by David Barclay Moore or *Like Vanessa* by Tami Charles
- 8th Grade: *Dear Martin* by Nic Stone or *The Benefits of Being an Octopus* by Ann Braden

*This book contains some language and content surrounding current racial issues that may prompt a discussion with your child.

Summer Reading Challenge:

- Students can read any middle grades or young adult book of their choice! To enter the summer reading challenge, students simply log the number of pages that they read throughout the summer. Each time a student finishes a book, they can log their pages by visiting bit.ly/BMSReads and inputting the required information. Students who read 1,000 pages or more will be invited to a reward party.

- Students can also enter a drawing for a chance to win biweekly prizes such as dress down days and free event admissions for the coming school year, a book of their choice, or other prizes. To enter the drawing, students will submit a book review or a book talk on BMS’s instagram page by tagging @brownmschargers and using the hashtag #ChargersGetLit. Live drawings will be held every other Friday beginning June 5, 2020 and ending August 7, 2020.

- Check out the BMS school library website for recommendations from our librarian and ELA teachers if your student is unsure of what to read beyond their required reading book.

We hope that you will join us in encouraging our students to embrace reading this summer. Together, we can push students at BMS to be the best!

Sincerely,
The BMS ELA teachers
6th, 7th, and 8th Grade Summer Reading Project Options

**6th grade** students will complete the One-Pager. This will be due the first week of school.

**7th and 8th grade** students will choose one of the following projects to complete. This will be due the first week of school.

**One-Pager: (THIS IS THE ONLY OPTION FOR 6TH GRADE)**

Create a one-pager to reflect on important elements of the novel you read. Include illustrations that reflect the topic, theme, setting, or characters of the book. There should be little, if any, white space on your one-pager. Your one-pager can be done digitally using a google doc, google slides, etc. Or, it can be done on a sheet of paper.

Include the following elements on your one-pager:

- **Favorite quote:** Choose a powerful quote from the text to display. State why the quote is important.
- **Character Analysis:** Draw a picture of the main character and list traits that describe the character. Include text evidence that illustrates these traits.
- **Conflict:** State the main problem that occurs in the book. Explain how the problem is solved.
- **Theme:** State the theme of the book. What lesson do the characters learn that can be applied to everyone?
- **Author’s Craft:** State two ways that the author helps you relate to the characters in the book. What does he/she do to help you sympathize with the characters? How does he/she help you understand the characters’ perspective?
- **Power Words:** List your top 5 new words that you discovered in your book. Include their definitions. It’s okay if you need to look them up.
- **An overview of the book:** Choose 3 adjectives to describe the book. Write or illustrate them on the page.

**Tissue Box Project:**

Using a tissue box, create a book report to reflect on the book you have read. Decorate the box so that it reflects the topic, theme, setting, or characters of the book. There should be little, if any, of the tissue box’s surface that is uncovered.

Include the following elements on the tissue box:

- **Top:** Student’s Name, Teacher’s Name, Book Title, Author
- **Side 1:** Write a powerful quote from the book. Explain why it is important.
- **Side 2:** Make a claim about a character in the book. Prove that your claim is true by using evidence from the book. Explain how your evidence proves your claim.
- **Side 3:** State the theme (lesson) that can be learned from this book. How did the author show us that lesson in the book?
- **Side 4:** Reflect on the author’s craft. Why do you think the author made the choice to format the book the way that he did? What effect does this choice have on the reader?
- **Bottom:** Justify the appearance of the box. Why did you choose to decorate it the way you did? How does it reflect the book?

**Song and Music Video Project:**

Write a song that captures the main character’s perspective on the conflict of the story and illustrates the theme of the book. The song should include at least 3 verses and a chorus. The song should help its listeners understand how the main character felt about the problems he/she faced throughout the story. It should also help listeners understand the lesson of the story.

You will type out the lyrics of your song on a google doc that can be shared with your teacher in August.

You will also create a music video for the song that includes visuals that correlate with the book. This could be recreating the setting as the background of your video, dressing up as the main character while you perform, or creating digital animations that depict the lyrics of your song. Creativity is encouraged!