

April 22, 2010

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 2014)—Study Guides will be available on the SFHS website by June 1, 2010

1. *Of Mice and Men* by John Steinbeck
2. *And then There Were None* by Agatha Christie
3. *Lord of the Flies* by William Golding

SOPHOMORE YEAR (Class of 2013)

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. *Night* by Eli Wiesel
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 2012)

Students must read ANY THREE of the following:

1. *My Sister's Keeper* by Jodi Picoult
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:

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| "William Wilson" | "The Black Cat" |
| "The Man of 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. *Tuesdays with Morrie* by Mitch Albom
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 that *Smashed* addresses the issue of teenaged—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 2011)

Students must read ANY THREE of the following:

1. *Bridget Jones' Diary* by Helen Fielding
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"

SUMMER TEST SCHEDULE

To help your son/daughter succeed in English for the 2010-2011 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:

July 6: tests to be administered at 12:00pm. and 7 p.m.; tests will be administered **ONLY** on these books:

Freshmen: *Of Mice and Men*

Sophomores: *Hound of the Baskervilles* and *Mississippi Trial:1955*

Juniors: *My Sister's Keeper* and *Tuesdays with Morrie*

Seniors: *Angela's Ashes* and Sherlock Holmes short stories

August 3: tests to be administered at 12:00pm and 7 p.m.; tests will be administered **ONLY** on these books:

Freshmen: *And Then There Were None*

Sophomores: *Night* and *The Curious Incident of Dog in the Night-Time*

Juniors: *Hope in the Unseen* and *Poe's Selected Tales*

Seniors: *Bridget Jones' Diary* and *My Dog Skip*

All book tests will be offered during the first week of the 2010-2011 school year.

Because we are offering two tests per date per grade (except 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 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. Enter and leave through the West parking lot using door number one.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact one of us.

Sincerely,

Kate Kowalski
Junior English Teacher
kkowalski@sfhsnet.org

Mary Pratscher
Senior English Teacher
mpratscher@sfhsnet.org