

To: Incoming Eighth Graders and parents

From: Mr. Smith and Mrs. Neal

Re: Summer reading assignments

Summer reading is a vitally important way to keep your brain sharp and your comprehension skills tuned as you head toward high school. This year, we will be assigning summer reading that is specifically designed to enhance the Eighth Grade experience at St. Richard's. Only three books are required, but students should take advantage of summer leisure time to read all sorts of good literature and magazines.

The first required book is a historical biography, accompanied by a reading packet that is to be completed and handed in during the first week of school. This is the first graded History assignment of the school year. Students may choose between

- *Thomas Jefferson - Architect of Democracy* by John B. Severance (Clarion Books)
- *George Washington & the Founding of a Nation* by Albert Marrin (Dutton Children's Books)
- *Lincoln – A Photobiography* by Russell Freedman (Clarion Books).

The Jefferson and Washington books are not generally available at bookstores but may be purchased used for just a few dollars at amazon.com's marketplace. The Lincoln book is widely available at bookstores and libraries. The packets are attached to this email.

For their other two selections, we recommend students choose novels from the following website:

http://www.educationworld.com/summer_reading/8th_grade.shtml

You may choose to write a brief synopsis of the two novels during the summer or wait until a class period dedicated to this assignment.

We are excited about the educational journey we will take starting in August. If you have any questions about these books or the packet assignment, please contact Mr. Smith before June 2 or Mrs. Neal after June 2.