



HOLY FAMILY CATHOLIC SCHOOL

Mr. Jesmer

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Dear Rising Fifth- Grader,

Congratulations on completing fourth grade! You deserve to have a fun summer break and I wish you the best summer yet. Don't forget about Jesus while you're on vacation. Once hour a week at Mass isn't asking a lot for the sacrifice he made for us. Also, remember that this fall I'm going to work you hard in fifth grade. So I'm going to expect you to take a little time this summer to prepare yourself for a challenging and rewarding grade next school year.

First, I want you to memorize your multiplication tables. I realize that most of you already have them memorized by now. Good for you! Just take a little time each day to review them. Sometime around Halloween we will get to multiplication and division and you will be required to complete a quiz on the multiplication tables in five minutes or less. Plus, when you know your multiplication tables, fractions and decimals and the rest of the math year will be much easier for you. If this makes you a little apprehensive, don't worry. Action cures fear, and if you take a few minutes every day this summer, you'll be fine by next fall.

Next, I want you to read three books this summer. While you read, I want you to keep a reading journal. Every time you read I want you to record the date, time, and place of where you read. I also want you to tell me how many pages you read that sitting. Finally, I want you to tell me what's going on in the story at that time. Here's an example;

Saturday afternoon, from 2:00 p.m. until golf started at 3:00, in my bedroom, 32 pages read. Brian Robeson is the main character. He's 13 years old and flying in a two seat plan to spend the summer with his Dad in Canada. His parents are divorced and he spends the school-year with his mother in New York. He knows some secret about the divorce but we don't know it yet. The pilot has a heart attack while flying the plane and Brian has to do the best he can to fly the plan and try to make a safe landing in the lake. It hit some trees and crashed in the lake. Brian saves himself but he's beat up. Night is coming...

The three periods...indicates that there's more to read. You'll cover what happens next the next day you read. Okay, let's get to the three books for your summer.



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Assigned Books for Summer 2009

1. **Shades of Gray** by Carolyn Reeder. Takes place in Virginia after the Civil War ended. A boy who lost his family in the war comes to live with his Aunt's family. His father died fighting for the confederates and he resents his Uncle because he didn't fight in the war.
2. **Misty of Chincoteague** by Marguerite Henry. The Beebe children want to buy one of the ponies from the wild herd living on an island off the coast of Virginia.
3. **Hatchet** by Gary Paulsen. Can Brian Robeson survive the Canadian wilderness after crash landing in that lake?

Okay, that's it. Every day I want you to have fun, read, write, do a little multiplication, have more fun, do something for you parents without being asked, be nice to your family, have still more fun, and remember to thank God for giving you all this fun!

See you in the fall!

Mr. Jesmer