



Mount Madonna Middle School
SUMMER READING LISTS
For Fall 2011

Updated 7/18/11

Mathematics

Algebra II and Algebra I/H summer work:

Please complete the 7-page algebra review (separate document) before the first day of classes.

Science

6th and 7th Grade Science

6th incoming:

Dr. Art's Guide to Science

0-7879-8326-8

Chapters 1-8 minimum

7th incoming:

Dr. Art's Guide to Science

0-7879-8326-8

Chapters 9-13 minimum

English

READING – 6th, 7th, and 8th grades

- Select and read a book/novel not yet read-something **NEW!** (not re-read)
- Book can be any genre - (Fiction, Biography, Memoir, Fantasy, Mystery, etc.), by a favorite author or even more bravely, by someone you have not yet read.
- Consult class booklist titled "Middle School Recommended Reading"- posted on the School Web Site - or email me and I'll send the list: sampad.kachuck@mountmadonna.org. Also, converse with your nearby librarian, book store helpers, classmates, family and friends for recommendations. Find a book you LOVE, one that captures your attention, touches and ignites you in some way. Let the book be a little above grade level.
- Once the school year starts, if still searching for the ultimate book, **select by Tuesday, 9/20!** You'll have about 2-3 weeks to finish!
- Projects surrounding that book-explanations and dates announced soon. You'll need your book! Feel free to get an early jump on the festivities.

WRITING – 6th, 7th, and 8th grades

- Writing assignment due **TUESDAY, 9/27** (Date Subject to change). If ahead of the wave, turn it in early! At later sessions, we'll discuss Round 2 options and deadlines.
- This is not a writing about your above book - that is a separate project.
- For this assignment, manifest a short writing about any subject that ignites your creative voice. Piece could be fictional (made up), or a passionate debate about something important, a moment in time explored- an activity, a meeting with someone memorable, a specific place described, or even a movie or play review. Poetry or playwriting also encouraged! We will do some "territory" brainstorming in the first week of classes if not sure what to write about
- Mainly have a point to trumpet, (the Thesis Statement) prove it fully through a tasty stew of daring description, spicy creativity and balancing logic.
- Careful of "bed to bed narrative"- "I woke up, then this happened, that happened, this happened and finally, I went to bed." It is your insight, perspective, uniqueness that resonates, not the list of events or actions.
- Think keyhole size focus ("My Near Death experience surfing at Pleasure Point") rather than too large in scope, ("My Summer of Activities")
- In the first few weeks of class, we'll review some helpful techniques to get the most out of this assignment.

Summer Writing Assignment Details

Objectives:

- To have first writing be a topic choice that keys creative, personal investment.
- To experience writing as doable, important, a reflection of uniqueness
- To provide insight into where you are as writers so as to better coach you
- In the rewrite stage, to experience the laboratory approach of this class

Description

Write about any subject that ignites, itches, or sparks your investment. Piece could be fictional (made up), or a passionate debate about something important, a moment in time explored- an activity, a meeting with someone memorable, a specific place described, or even a movie or play review. Poetry or playwriting also encouraged!

Method

- In terms of subject material, think keyhole size focus ("My Near Death experience surfing at Pleasure Point") rather than too large in scope, ("My Summer of Activities")
- Establish a point to trumpet, prove it fully through a tasty stew of daring description, spicy creativity and balancing logic.

- Careful of “bed to bed narrative”- “I woke up, then this happened, that happened, this happened and finally, I went to bed.” It is your insight, perspective, uniqueness that resonates, not the list of events or actions.
- First weeks of class dedicated to establishing approach to writing. Activities and handouts on Brainstorming Topics, Writing Process, Editing and Revision to help move writing forward.
- If writing already completed, certainly submit it. If, however, you want to incorporate hints and suggestions discussed in class, then hold off.
- Mainly, let this assignment be playful, experimental and authentic, who you are right now. No need to make it perfect. This is simply one step in the creative process of discovery about this particular writing topic you chose.

Form and Rules of the Road

- Length is arbitrary, figure 4-5 paragraphs, 500 words, longer if inspired, shorter if brilliantly constructed. For poems, at least 20 lines.
- Typed, double space; if handwritten, in pen, skip lines.
- In upper right corner, your name, grade level, date and assignment.
- In middle of header line, colorful title. “Why Grandma Smacked me with a Zucchini” as opposed to “Summer Writing” or even “Meeting with Grandma”

Performing Arts

Song Share, begins Wednesday, 9/14. All participate!

Choose a section of a song (no more than 90 seconds) that you like and are capable of sharing. Avoid lyrics with profanity, put downs of cultural, gender, ethnic or religious group, or that contain explicit sexual descriptions, or violent images. This is not about who sings well or who feels they do not. Nor is it a preliminary audition for the winter shows. Instead, the purpose is to establish a bond between the members of group by taking a personal risk. Singing can be a vulnerable experience. If the adventure sounds ominous, hang in there; it actually is very liberating. We appreciate that for new and for returning students (as well as teachers who also participate) the experience creates a few butterflies. Yet, in the end, ***everyone survives***. On the field trips that start our year, new students should talk with their classmates about song share. They will see that everyone is in the same boat. Our first Monday of classes, 9/12, we'll all meet together to discuss the class and this activity in particular. On Wednesday, let the veteran students go first and see how the room responds to one another while we sing. It may sound scary, but it is a "good" scary. Not like crossing the freeway blindfolded...

Song Share recommendations:

1. The selection can be short, even a minute is fine- 2 verses + chorus.
2. Pick a song you like, in your vocal range, that doesn't jump too high or low.
3. Avoid "Happy Birthday", "Twinkle Twinkle" or "Star Spangled Banner" – If you think the song is silly or inconsequential, it will be hard to present it fully.
4. Songs that are rhythmic or percussive (Rap) are okay, but make sure lyrics are appropriate.
5. As for accompaniment, some students have played guitar or piano while singing. Most, if not all, sing acapella. Again, the experience is built around singing. Regarding duets, better to sing alone.

Auditions for the Winter Production begin Friday, 9/16. (After Song sharing completes) Auditions components explained at first class meeting. Quarter grades are greatly affected by participation. Auditions consist of learning a small section of dance choreography as well as a prepared song plus monologue or scene from our selected play. (Materials made available once school starts).

Show Selections: Stay tuned! *If interested in being part of the Play Selection process,* High School students meeting Saturday, 8/6, 10-12 in C13. Middle School Students, stay tuned.

High School Backstage and Technical Theatre Opportunities! If interested in stage design and set construction, stage managing, prop and or costume assisting, particularly as an alternative to performing onstage, see Sampad or one of the directors in the first few weeks of class.

Questions? Contact me at sampad.kachuck@mountmadonna.org.