

Dear St. Anne's Families,

In the following pages, you will find not only the required readings for grades 3-5, but also some wonderful recommendations from Ms. DiNicola. The grade level lists are just a guide, so feel free to peruse back and forth. Of course, your local library will be a great resource, as well.

As our students embark on their summer reading journeys, we encourage them to take up books that are "windows," offering perspectives and experiences different from their own. Students often gravitate toward books and stories that closely mirror their own perspectives and experiences. However, when students read books and stories that broaden their exposure to different voices, even when the plot and storyline are familiar, they can become more empathetic and inclusive. This is what we have found when using this approach in the classroom, as well.

While we are, of course, believers in free choice and reading what makes students excited to spend time with a book (audio, electronic, graphic or print), we also want to recognize that, sometimes, the right push and encouragement from a teacher or a parent can help to broaden students' horizons and make them happy that they did so. If you have any questions about this, please do not hesitate to reach out to us. Our hope is that over the summer students are spending quality time each day getting lost in a book and learning from various stories.

*Alyssa Kitts
Language Arts Chair*

*Kelsey Smith
Co-Director of Community & Inclusion*