Saint Michael the Archangel
CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

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FAITH ✝ SERVITUDE ✝ LEADERSHIP ✝ KNOWLEDGE

22 June 2026

Dear Parents,

Another school year has ended, and the long days of summer have begun. Even though leisure time activities start to take precedence over academic endeavors, I would like to encourage you to keep reading high on your child's list of summer activities. It really is true that readers are leaders. Just like other skills your children are learning, such as how to hit a baseball or play the piano, reading needs to be practiced every day to maintain and strengthen skills.

There is an extensive body of research that tells us that academic achievement is directly related to how much time children spend reading outside of school. This is in large part due to the fact that reading builds vocabulary and background knowledge.

Educators are concerned about summer reading loss or "summer slide" that takes place when children don't read over the summer. It may take a month or two for students who did not read over the summer months to get back to the level at which they were reading at the end of the previous year. While missing out on reading for one or two months may not seem like much, when it happens year after year, the effect can be very detrimental. The brain is a muscle that needs exercise; as the old adage goes "use it or lose it".

In an effort to increase literacy as well as bridge gaps between this year and the next, Saint Michael's will continue implementing a summer reading requirement for all students. Over the summer months, all students will read one mandatory novel. Attached is the list of required reading for each English class in which your child is enrolled. Please be aware that assessments based on summer reading requirements will be given during the first week of school. No adjustments will be made to any scores.

I appreciate your continued support with our English program and look forward to the coming year.

Happy Reading!

Ms. Swann

# Summer Reading List 2026

English 9

*The Pearl* (John Steinbeck)

English 10

*The Alchemist (Paulo Coelho)*

English 10 Honors

*Something Wicked This Way Comes* (Ray Bradbury)

English 11

*A Tree Grows in Brooklyn* (Betty Smith)

English 12

*The Picture of Dorian Gray* (Oscar Wilde)

Dual Enrollment (English 111/112)

*The Immortal Henrietta Lacks (*Rebecca Skloot)

Dual Enrollment (English 246/246)

*Jane Eyre* (Charlotte Brontë)