

**Fairfax County Public Schools**  
**Hayfield Secondary School**



**HAWKS**

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Dear Parents of Students Entering a General Education English Class:

According to the *Chronicle of Higher Education*, college students are entering college less able to read critically than in years past. Some college studies have indicated this is because students are reading less, and as a result writing, spelling, and vocabulary have been significantly impacted as well. The Hayfield Secondary English department believes that reading throughout the year is important, and we recommend that students read at least three books over the summer to keep their reading skills sharp.

We also recognize that it is important that students have a choice in selecting their reading materials. Recent reports from the National Council of Teachers of English describe guided student choice as a key component in successful summer reading. We hope that greater freedom to choose their own titles will increase students' interest in reading and will lead to greater overall achievement.

History has shown that most students, when assigned summer reading, attempt to cram reading in the day or two before returning to school. Because we want to encourage reading materials of choice for enjoyment over the summer, we are not requiring that students entering a general education English class next year complete a summer reading assignment; however, we recommend that students participate in the summer reading program sponsored by our library. Students can earn prizes (Chipotle BOGO coupons, pencils, and Hayfield t-shirts) and raffle entries for a Kindle Fire Tablet by reading up to five books this summer, answering a couple of questions, and turning completed forms in to the library by the end of the school day on September 3<sup>rd</sup>. Students and parents can find out more information about this program by checking out the announcement page on the Hayfield website or visiting the Hayfield Library's website (<https://hayfieldss.fcps.library>).

FCPS librarians have developed a resource list that describes databases and websites that students and families can use to help with the selection of appropriate and interesting titles for summer reading. Go to <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library/reading/> for suggestions.

We appreciate your help as we all work together to foster a love for reading and learning.

Sincerely,

Mr. Martin Grimm  
Principal

Ms. Victoria Wuerfel  
English Department Chair

Students enrolled in an Honors or AP level English course will have a different summer reading assignment.