

May 21, 2018

Dear Soon-to-be 7th Grader,



You are wrapping up a terrific 6th grade year. Congratulations on all you achieved in your first year at Stout! Now, we're looking forward to welcoming you into our ELA classrooms in the fall. Over the summer, we will be doing a lot to prepare for the next school year. You should also be doing the

same; you should be preparing for 7th grade!

Recent research shows us that "on average, students' achievement scores declined over summer vacation by one month's worth of school-year learning" and that "the extent of loss was larger at higher grade levels" (Quinn & Polikoff). What the research is saying is that if you do nothing to prepare for 7th grade, you'll come back in the fall one month behind where you are right now! That's a lot of learning to make up for but, since you're reading this now, there is something you can do to prevent that learning loss. You can continue to read! Just as the professional athlete needs to continually practice to keep up his/her skills, you also need to practice your reading strategies to keep up your reading level.

Here's your summer learning requirement for 7th grade Language Arts:

- *Read one or more books from the following list:*
 - *The Devil's Arithmetic*
 - *The Giver*
 - *The Hunger Games*
 - *Monster*
 - *Soul Surfer*
 - *The Westing Game*
- *Take an online comprehension test once we're back in school*

That's it! Just read and enjoy the book(s) and BE SURE you understand it well! The comprehension test has 30 questions to see how well you comprehended the book. Later in the school year, we'll read another title or two off of that list. When we do, you'll be asked to compare that book with the one you read over the summer so be sure not to forget what you read!

To further prepare, you can begin to gather the suggested materials for our ELA classes. The stores will offer lots of sales during the summer where you can pick up some of the items at a great price! Be on the lookout for the following items:

- ~ A 3-ring binder (either 1" or 1 ½")
- ~ Five divider tabs
- ~ Lined, notebook filler paper
- ~ Lots of pencils & ink pens
- ~ Highlighters (in a variety of colors)
- ~ Colored pencils
- ~ 3x3 sticky notes
- ~ One pack of 3x5 index cards (for making flash cards)
- ~ Zipper/pencil pouch with holes for use in a binder (to hold flash cards)
- ~ 2 - 3 boxes of tissue (for class use)

{of course, if your family is unable to provide any or all of these supplies, please let us know so that we can make arrangements so students are prepared.}

If you or your family has any questions, you can always speak to us at Stout or you can reach us by the email addresses listed below. We hope you have a superb summer! We can't wait to see how much practice you've gotten over the summer.

Sincerely,

Sincerely,

Marla Wiacek, ELA Teacher
Stout Middle School
wiacekm@dearbornschools.org

Julie Wooton, ELA Teacher
Stout Middle School
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Quinn, David M., et al. "Summer Learning Loss: What Is It, and What Can We Do about It?" *Brookings*, Brookings, 14 Sept. 2017, www.brookings.edu/research/summer-learning-loss-what-is-it-and-what-can-we-do-about-it/.



Dearborn Public Schools accept a parent's assertion that he or she needs language assistance without requiring additional corroboration. For free help with understanding the content of this document, please call the Student Services office 827-3005 for translation/interpretation Assistance.

Arabic: تؤكد مدارس ديربورن على توفير خدمات الترجمة بدون أي شرط للحصول على هذه الخدمة المجانية ولفهم هذه الإستمارة يرجى الإتصال بمكتب خدمات الطلاب على الرقم 827-3005

French: Les écoles de Dearborn vous offrent le service de traduction sans aucune condition. Si vous souhaitez avoir le service gratuit pour comprendre le contenu de ce document, prière d'appeler le bureau de Services aux Etudiants 827-3005.

Spanish: Las escuelas de Dearborn aceptan la afirmación de un padre que él o ella necesita ayuda con el idioma sin necesidad de corroboración adicional. Para obtener ayuda gratuita con la comprensión del contenido de este documento, por favor llame a la oficina de Servicios de los Estudiantes 827-3005 para recibir asistencia de traducción / interpretación.

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Albanian: Shkolla DEARBORN pranojnë pohimin e të prindërve që ai ose ajo ka nevojë për ndihmë të gjuhës pa kërkuar vërtetim shtesë. Për ndihmë lirë me kuptuar përmbajtjen e këtij dokumenti, ju lutemi telefononi zyren e shërbimeve për studentë 827-3005 për përkthim / interpretim ndihmë.

Romanian: Scoilele orasului Dearborn accepta orice declaratie parinteasca care atesta nevoia copilul de asistenta cu limba engleza fara nici o dovada suplimentara. Daca aveti nevoie sa intelegeti acest document da-ti telefon la oficiul serviciilor scoolare la numarul 827-3005 pentru a primi asistenta cu translatia sau interpretarea lui.

Urdu: ڈیئر بورن اسکولوں میں والدین کا دعویٰ ہے کہ وہ یا وہ اضافی تعاون کی ضرورت ہوتی ہے بغیر زبان امداد کی ضرورت ہے کو قبول کرتے ہیں۔ اس دستاویز کے مواد کو سمجھنے کے ساتھ مفت میں مدد کے لئے، براہ مہربانی مدد ترجمہ / تشریح کے لئے طالب علم کی خدمات کے دفتر کو کال کریں 827-3005