



NEW PALTZ MIDDLE SCHOOL

196 Main Street, New Paltz, New York 12561 • Phone: (845)256-4200 • Fax: (845)256-4209 • www.newpaltz.k12.ny.us

Dr. Richard Wiesenthal
Principal

Mr. Anthony Tantillo
Assistant Principal

June 2012

Dear Parents/Guardians of a 6th Grade Student:

Reading is essential for academic success in school as well as in everyday life. Summer provides an excellent opportunity for students to read books that they are interested in and are on their reading level. If they are a part of the selection of the book, they may be more motivated to read. The New Paltz community has several good libraries and bookstores that provide an extensive variety of choices. Have your child select a book and then read a few pages to determine if the level is satisfactory.

If you want additional help in book selection, The International Reading Association provides lists of newly published books; Children's Choices and Teacher's Choices are lists of books that have been evaluated by students and teachers. These lists can be accessed at <http://www.reading.org/Resources/Booklists.aspx>.

In September, sixth graders will share their summer reading. Attached is a simple form they should fill out for any book they read. They will have a few days to complete the form in September if they do not finish it during the summer.

Please encourage your child to read every day. Reading with your child can be a rewarding experience for both you and your child.

Please see the reverse side of this letter for the 2012-2013 supply list.

Sincerely,

New Paltz Middle School Sixth Grade Teachers

(over)

6TH GRADE SUPPLY LIST

SUPPLY LIST

3 Ring Binder w/2" rings
Lined Paper
Dividers
4 Composition Notebooks
Pens – Black/Blue
Pencils
4 pkgs. Index Cards
Glue Sticks
Highlighters
Post-Its (1 ½" X 2")
Pencil Sharpener
Pocket Folders
Calculator
Erasers
Box of Tissues
Calligraphy Pen

Suggested:

Reinforcements
Colored Pencils
White Out
3 Hole Puncher

MUSIC

1" Black three-ring binder
Pen and pencil and eraser
Loose Leaf Paper

ART

9"X12" Spiral Sketchbook (no lines)
Pencil with Eraser

SUGGESTED

Sixth Grade Summer Reading List

Crispin, Poppy or Ragweed by Avi
What Every Girl(except me) Knows or Basketball(or something like it)
by Nora Raleigh Baskin
Fahrenheit 451 by Ray Bradbury
Ramona by Beverly Clearly
Thank You, Jackie Robinson by Barbara Cohen
My Brother Sam is Dead by James Collier
The Monster's Ring by Bruce Coville
Chasing Redbird by Sharon Creech
The Tale of Despereaux by Kate DiCamillo
Matilda by Roald Dahl
Harriet the Spy by Louis Fitzhugh
The Thief Lord by Cornelia Funke
Shark Beneath the Reef by Jean Craighead George
I Thought my Soul Would Rise and Fly: the Diary of Patsy, A Freed Girl
by Joyce Hansen
Hoot by Carl Hiaasen
Phantom Tollbooth by Norton Juster
Ella Enchanted by Gail Carson Levine
The Last Battle by C.S. Lewis
White Fang by Jack London
Heat by Mike Lupika
Pendragon by D.J.MacHale
Charlie Bone by Jenny Nimmo
Where the Red Fern Grows by Wilson Rawls
Small Steps by Louis Sachar
Encyclopedia Brown by Donald Sobol
Confidence by Todd Strasser
Stuart Little by E.B.White
Soldier X by Don Wulffson
Dragon Wings by Laurence Yep

Series:

A Series of Unfortunate Events by Lemony Snicket
Chicken Soup for the Soul
Dear America
Among the Hidden by Margaret Peterson Haddix
Harry Potter by J.K. Rowling

*If your child has read these books, or you are unable to locate these books, please select another book by one of the authors.

At-home reading tips

- * ● Make the public library a regular part of your child's life. Find out what programs and activities are available for the different age groups, such as story hours or discussion groups. Explore the variety of reading materials with your child. Teach him or her how to use the card catalog and locate books of interest. Encourage enthusiasm by making your child feel proud about his or her selection of books.
- Setting a good example is one of the best ways to promote reading success in children. Parents who value and appreciate reading will tend to have children who also value and appreciate it. Be sure your child has plenty of opportunities to see you enjoying reading. Tell your child about what you read, what you've learned and how much you've enjoyed it.
- Set aside a regular time for reading at home. It should be a time when the whole family can participate.
- Read together. Select reading material your child will enjoy. Try not to limit the types of material. Try magazines, newspapers, brochures and instructions as well as books.
- Skim the reading selection for any words that may be unfamiliar to your child and write them down. Pronounce the word and explain the meaning. Then pause and have your child try to read the word and repeat the meaning to you.
- If time allows, have your child read the selection silently first, before reading it out loud. He or she will make fewer mistakes and comprehend it better.
- Share the oral reading experience. You can alternate paragraphs, sentences or dialogue. If your child stumbles or hesitates on a word, tell him or her the word and continue. If your child pauses or struggles, it may break concentration and comprehension. It can also turn what should be a pleasant experience into a difficult task.
- Ask questions while reading. Start out with simple questions about the details in the story. Later ask questions that require an opinion or a conclusion. Encourage your child to do the same.
- Review what was read with your child. Have him or her tell you in his or her own words what it was about. Discuss why it was or was not enjoyable. Have him or her repeat any new words in a sentence.
- After you've finished reading, encourage your child with praise. Be enthusiastic about improvement, as well as good performance. A sincere "thank you" with a smile and a hug can make a world of difference.

(OVER)

Books I Have Read



Name _____ Date _____

Title of book: _____

Author: _____ #of pages: _____

Genre: _____ Setting: _____

(Type of literature) (Time and Place)

The main character (or characters) in this story was _____
who _____ . A problem developed when

This was a problem because _____

The problem was solved when _____

At the end of the story _____

Choosing from 1-10, with 1 being the lowest rating and 10 being the highest rating, I gave
this book a _____ because _____
