

Dear Families and Students,

The following summer assignments are **required** for the seventh grade class entering the 2025-2026 school year:

1. English

Required reading:

- The **assigned book** that all students must read this summer for 7th grade English is *The Hound of the Baskervilles*, by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle. **Please answer [these questions](#) about the book.** Your work will be collected when you return the first day of school in September. You may listen to [an audio version](#) of the book while you read (in fact, this is strongly encouraged). Students have permission (and are encouraged!) to watch one or more movie versions of *The Hound of the Baskervilles*, though many questions can only be answered by reading the book.

Good movie versions include

- the 1939 version starring Basil Rathbone
- the 1959 version starring Peter Cushing
- the 1983 version starring Ian Richardson
- the 1988 version starring Jeremy Brett
- the 2002 BBC version starring Richard Roxburgh
- the 2013 BBC adaptation starring Benedict Cumberbatch (can be found on Apple TV)

Optional/Additional Sherlock Holmes reading:

- [Chapter 1 & 2 of *A Study in Scarlet*](#); [audio](#); if you have AppleTV, watch the first 20 minutes of season 1 episode 1 of the BBC series *Sherlock* (entitled *A Study in Pink*) to see how Sherlock Holmes and Dr. John Watson meet
- Recommended short stories (about 15 pages each; audio is about 50 minutes)
 - [A Scandal in Bohemia](#); [audio](#); [movie](#)
 - [The Red-Headed League](#); [audio](#); [movie](#)
 - [The Man with the Twisted Lip](#); [audio](#); [movie](#)
 - [The Adventure of the Engineer's Thumb](#); [audio](#); [Mythbusters episode](#) about this story

- [The Adventure of Silver Blaze](#); [audio](#); [movie](#); you might also want to [listen to](#) or [read](#) book *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Nighttime*, whose title comes from a line in the story
- [The Final Problem](#); [audio](#); [movie](#)
- Any other stories you might want to read from
 - [The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes](#)
 - [The Memoirs of Sherlock Holmes](#)
 - [The Return of Sherlock Holmes](#)
 - [His Last Bow](#)
 - [The Case Book of Sherlock Holmes](#)

(2) For Spanish, if your child has access to a laptop or smartphone and can do the free version of duolingo (<https://www.duolingo.com/>), that is my assignment. Even three minutes a day is shown to have an impact across categories that students will see on the Global Seal of Biliteracy test in 8th grade. The website and app allow for a placement test that is individualized so please get that up and running. You can also set a target for how much you would like to practice.

There are about 60 days of summer:

If you practice 3 minutes a day, that equals 3 hours

If you practice 5 minutes a day, that equals 5 hours

If you practice 30 minutes a day, that equals 30 hours

For any student entering Spanish for the first time in the 7th grade at DCD OR for those for whom summer review work has been indicated, there are two documents to review with links, videos and practice for the major concepts they must know:

- 1) [Incoming 6th Grade Spanish Summer Work](#)
- 2) [Incoming 7th Grade Spanish Summer Work](#)

(3) For **Latin**, returning students should review the vocabulary from the past year. The vocabulary lists from the chapters covered are linked here: [Stage 1-3](#), [Stage 4](#), [Stage 5](#), [Stage 6](#), [Stage 7](#), [Stage 8](#), [Stage 9](#), [Stage 10](#), [Stage 11](#), [Stage 12](#). Students new to Latin should refer to [this document](#) which includes the list of grammatical topics which were covered in the last year.

(4) **Summer reading:**

DCD Middle School Summer Reading List for 2025

Middle School students at DCD are asked to read at least one book this summer that they have not previously read. When we return in September, students will share what they read with their advisories.

Some suggestions:

Here are some curated “best” lists that provide options for teens:

[New York Public Library Best Books for Teens](#) [Young Adult Literacy Services Association](#)

[Epic Reads - Young Adults](#)

[GoodReads Best Young Adult Fiction](#)

[MA Children’s Book Award \(for Gr 6\)](#)

[MA Teen Choice Book Award \(for Gr 7-8\)](#)

The list below was created by six students in the Class of 2025, who offered their favorite recent books as suggestions for summer reading options.

The Midnight Library by Matt Haig

The Perks of Being a Wallflower by Stephen Chbosky

The Book Thief by Markus Zusak

Fourth Wing by Rebecca Yarros

Assistant to the Villain by Hannah Nicole Maehrer

The One That got Away with Murder by Trish Lundy

Two can Keep a Secret by Karen Mcmanus

Carrie Soto is Back by Taylor Jenkins Reid

Malibu Rising by Taylor Jenkins Reid

To All the Boys I've Loved Before by Jenny Han

The Summer I Turned Pretty by Jenny Han

The Summer of Broken Rules by KL Walther

The Sun is Also a Star by Nicola Yoon

Love and Gelato by Jenna Evans Welch

The *Tripods* trilogy by John Christopher

All Quiet on the Western Front by Erich Maria Remarque

A Night Divided by Jennifer A. Nielson

Class of 2024 summer reading suggestions

Jennifer De Leon: *Don't Ask Me Where I'm From*

Jennifer De Leon: *Borderless*
John Green: *Paper Towns*, *The Fault in Our Stars*
Mike Lupica: *Heat*
Jason Reynolds: *All American Boys*
Adam Silvera: *They Both Die at the End*
Adam Silvera: *The First to Die at the End I*
Nic Stone: *Dear Martin*
Tahereh Mafi: *Shatter Me* (series)
Lauren Roberts: *Powerless*
Holly Jackson: *A Good Girls Guide to Murder* (series); *Five Survive*
Karen M. McManus: *One of Us is Lying* series
Holly Black: *The Cruel Prince* series
Jennifer Lynne Barnes: *The Inheritance Games* (series); *The Naturals* (series)
Rebecca Ross: *Divine Rivals*
Kristen Hannah: *The Nightingale*
Sandra Block: *Girl Overboard*
Jenny Han: *The Summer I Turned Pretty*
Lynn Painter (many YA rom-coms)
Veronica Roth: *Divergent* series
Stephenie Meyers: *Twilight* series
Suzanne Collins: *The Hunger Games* series
Kenneth Opiel: *The Overthrow* series (*Bloom*, *Hatch*, *Thrive*)

If you have any questions about the summer assignments, please do not hesitate to contact your teacher or Mr. Buffum (nbuffum@dcds.net).