

Dear Parents and Students,

At Bishop DuBourg High School, we strive to make our students lifelong learners. In the English department, we believe part of that process is helping students find books that they enjoy reading. Free reading gives students an enjoyable opportunity to practice and improve their reading skills.

Many students get “rusty” at these skills over the summer. In order to keep them at their academic best, Bishop DuBourg High School has a summer reading program. Students will each be required to read a book according to their grade level. Students should also read two other books of their choice over the summer. A parental signature form will need to be submitted to ensure each student met the reading requirement.

Completion of the summer reading program is worth a test grade in the first quarter of each student’s English class. Students will be given an assessment the first week of school dealing with the required book. Students who read three books and complete the assessment will receive an A. Students who complete two books and the assessment will receive a B, and those who read the assigned book and complete the assessment will receive a C. If a student does not do summer reading, he or she will receive an F (60%).

Students also have the opportunity to earn an extra credit grade in the first quarter for attending the Shakespeare Festival of St. Louis. *Hamlet* runs every night except Tuesdays between May 28 and June 20. The performance begins at 8:00 on the east side of Art Hill. Admission is free. Students must write a one page, typed report on the play. The report should include a one paragraph summary on the play. The rest should focus on the student’s reaction to the play. For example, were the actors believable? What was the theme of the play? Did you like the play? Could you understand it?

Thank you in advance for participating in Bishop DuBourg’s summer reading program. Attached to this letter you will find the required reading list, a suggested reading list for students who are having difficulty finding personal choice books (students do not have to choose a book from this list) and a parental signature form.

Sincerely,
The English Department