



RHAM Middle School

Dr. Michael Seroussi
Principal

Carri-Ann Bell
Assistant Principal

Dear Incoming 7th Grader and Family,

Please allow me to extend my welcome to you and your family from the English Department at Region 8! You are about to take a very exciting step, and our department is looking forward to getting to know you and work with you over the next six years. At RHAM Middle School, we support a culture of reading and learning. Throughout the year, in all your classes, reading and literacy will play a key role. Our RHAM Learning Commons (our media center) is filled with books that have proven to be popular with your fellow students, and we add new books and new authors every year. For **this summer we ask that you read at least one book of your choice**, and of an appropriate challenge level. Please do not read something you have read before, and try to expand your reading selections with something new! *Check out the back side of this letter for recommendations!*

As you read, we ask that you write out some notes on an index card or a piece of paper with the information below. Remember to put this index card or paper in a safe place for the start of school. Please record the following information:

- Your name and 7th grade team (when you find out this summer)
- The title of the book and the author's name.
- 1-2 sentences about why you chose this book.
- 1-2 sentences about whether you liked the book and why or why not.
- List the basic information from the book:
 - Main character names. Was there a clear "hero" and "villain"?
 - Major conflicts - what was the problem in the story the main character was trying to overcome?
 - Setting - time and place
 - A 3-4 sentence summary of the plot.
- If you choose a nonfiction book, use the index card to record main ideas and consider the Big 3 Questions:
 - What did the author assume I already knew about this topic?
 - What surprised me about this topic?
 - What information challenged/changed/confirmed what I thought I already knew?

When you begin 7th grade, your reading and English teachers will both be excited to talk with you and your classmates about the books you read, and they may even have some exciting projects planned based on them. The index card of notes can help to keep track of information about your book, even if you read it early in the summer. You are not limited to only reading one book, and can fill out index cards for as many as you would like this summer.

If you have any questions about this or other aspects of the English and reading program at RHAM Middle School, please feel free to call me or send an email. We look forward to you joining our teams and school this fall!

Sincerely,

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World Class Learning for Today and Tomorrow

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Nutmeg Book Awards - Grades 7-8

Check out this site to see books that have won this Connecticut Award and which books are nominated for this year!



RHAM Library Learning Commons

Check out our school's site for books in the spotlight, RHAM Reads recommendations from students, and lists of new books. The RHAM Learning Commons will be staffed the five days following the last day of school and the five days prior to the start of the school year, but many of these books can be found at your local library as well!



Douglas Library - Hebron



Richmond Memorial Library - Marlborough



Andover Public Library

