

Welcome to 6th grade, Saint Aloysius students! This coming school year will consist of many different adventures in Reading & Writing. I am very excited to start off the school year discussing these novels and diving into grammar!

In Reading, you will select one of the **5** novels on the following page to read and complete one activity on. This is a book that you need to purchase for yourselves this summer, we do not have enough school copies that can be distributed for summer enrichment.

For Writing, to stay refreshed on grammar skills, students will complete IXL throughout the summer. The specific topics to complete for IXL's Summer Boost Skill Plan are posted on the school website. IXL log-in information was passed out with the Math summer enrichment. Students will use the same IXL log-in for ELA & Math.

Have a wonderful summer! See you in September!

## Summer Reading Incoming 6th grade - outgoing 5th

Choose one of the following books:

***Heat by Mike Lupica*** - Michael Arroyo has a pitching arm that throws serious heat along with aspirations of leading his team all the way to the Little League World Series. But his firepower is nothing compared to the heat Michael faces in his day-to-day life. Newly orphaned after his father led the family's escape from Cuba, Michael's only family is his seventeen-year old brother Carlos. If Social Services hears of their situation, they will be separated in the foster-care system—or worse, sent back to Cuba. Together, the boys carry on alone, dodging bills and anyone who asks too many questions. But then someone wonders how a twelve-year-old boy could possibly throw with as much power as Michael Arroyo throws. With no way to prove his age, no birth certificate, and no parent to fight for his cause, Michael's secret world is blown wide open, and he discovers that family can come from the most unexpected sources.

***The Insignificant Events in the Life of a Cactus by Dusti Bowling*** - Aven Green loves to tell people that she lost her arms in an alligator wrestling match, or a wildfire in Tanzania, but the truth is she was born without them. And when her parents take a job running Stagecoach Pass, a rundown western theme park in Arizona, Aven moves with them across the country knowing that she'll have to answer the question over and over again.

Her new life takes an unexpected turn when she bonds with Connor, a classmate who also feels isolated because of his own disability, and they discover a room at Stagecoach Pass that holds bigger secrets than Aven ever could have imagined. It's hard to solve a mystery, help a friend, and face your worst fears. But Aven's about to discover she can do it all . . . even without arms.

***Eight Keys- by Suzanne LaFleur*** - Elise and Franklin have always been best friends. Elise has always lived in the big house with her loving Uncle and Aunt, because Elise's parents died when she was too young to remember them. There's always been a barn behind the house with eight locked doors on the second floor.

When Elise and Franklin start middle school, things feel all wrong. Bullying. Not fitting in. Franklin suddenly seems babyish. Then, soon after her 12th birthday, Elise receives a mysterious key left for her by her father. A key that unlocks one of the eight doors upstairs in the barn . . .

***Lost in the Pacific, 1942 by Tod Olson*** - World War II, October 21, 1942. A B-17 bomber drones high over the Pacific Ocean, sending a desperate SOS into the air. The crew is carrying America's greatest living war hero on a secret mission deep into the battle zone. But the plane is lost, burning through its final gallons of fuel. At 1:30 p.m., there is only one choice left: an emergency landing at sea. If the crew survives the impact, they will be left stranded without food or water hundreds of miles from civilization. Eight men. Three inflatable rafts. Sixty-eight million square miles of ocean. What will it take to make it back alive?

***Sammy Keyes and the Hotel Thief by Wendelin Van Drannen*** - Sammy Keyes must be a magnet for trouble...I mean it's bad enough that she has to live illegally in a seniors-only building with her grandmother while her mother tries to make it as a movie star. And worse that she witnessed a burglary in progress--and that the thief saw her. And worse still that nosy neighbor Mrs. Graybill is onto her, and that the thief is after her. But on top of all that, she also manages to make an enemy of the queen of mean at her new school and get suspended on the first day.

Welcome to the wild world of Sammy Keyes!

## Choice Board for Summer Reading Incoming 6th grade - outgoing 5th

Please choose **ONE** of the following activities to complete your summer enrichment.

<p>Write a review for your book. Would you give it a thumbs up or a thumbs down? Why? Use examples from the book in your answer.</p>	<p>Compose a letter to the author (neatly written or typed) suggesting an idea for a sequel. What do you want to see continued or updated?</p>
<p>Make a collage for your book with pictures you find online, or hand drawn. What 10 images would represent this story?</p>	<p>Discuss similarities and differences between this book and another book you have read. Possibly use a Venn Diagram.</p>

**Student:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Book Title:** \_\_\_\_\_

### Summer Reading Rubric

Summer Reading Projects	Excellent 5	Good 4	Weak 3
<b>Quality of Effort</b>	Invested time and shows real effort. Final project is clear, neat, and easy to read.	Mostly clear and neat, but more effort needed to reach Excellent Level.	Lack of effort. Seems to be thrown together or is unclear.
<b>Shows understanding of novel.</b>	Project shows understanding of the novel.	Most of the project shows understanding of the novel.	Project shows little specific understanding of the novel.
<b>Creativity</b>	Fabulous!	Looks good	Lacking creativity
<b>Proofreading</b>	No noticeable errors	Minor errors	Many errors

**Total points:** \_\_\_\_\_ / 20

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