

May 31, 2020

Re: Middle School Reading Summer Assignment

Dear Parents/ Guardians:

As we close the end of the school year, summer reading becomes a very important topic at Blessed Sacrament School; also we are aware of the importance of maintaining solid reading habits over the summer. For that reason, Blessed Sacrament School has enclosed a suggested reading list.

For this summer, we will require our middle school students to read the book **The Maze Runner by James Dashner**, this book was selected by the ELA middle school teacher as the student's summer reading assignment. The assignment will consist of three parts that students will complete during the summer; the due date for the assignments will be the first day of school. Additional activities will be given to students during the incoming school year to assess and enrich their understanding of the novel.

Please encourage your children to read every day! Thank you for being the best role model for our young people.

Thank You,

Mrs. Guadalupe E-Gutierrez

ELA Middle School Teacher

Blessed Sacrament School
Summer Reading Assignments
for students entering 6th, 7th and 8th grades
The Maze Runner by James Dashner

The Maze Runner is the first book in a young-adult post-apocalyptic science fiction trilogy of the same name by James Dashner. The novel was published on October 6, 2009, by Delacorte Press, an imprint of Random House.

“ If you ain’t scared, you ain’t human. When Thomas wakes up in the lift, the only thing he can remember is his name. He’s surrounded by strangers—boys whose memories are also gone.

Nice to meet ya, shank. Welcome to the Glade.

Outside the towering stone walls that surround the Glade is a limitless, ever-changing maze. It’s the only way out—and no one’s ever made it through alive.

Everything is going to change.

Then a girl arrives. The first girl ever. And the message she delivers is terrifying. Remember. Survive. Run.”

After reading *The Maze Runner* by James Dahner, , you will complete a three-part assignment:

Written Response Assignments

1. ***This ONE is required, write an 500 word essay. What tone or mood does Dashner create in this first section of the novel? What techniques does he employ to develop it? Why do you think he chose this way to begin the novel?
2. *** This ONE is required, write a well-written essay identifying the rising action, climax, falling action, and resolution of the book.
3. *** This ONE is required, write a well-written essay explaining what you think the author’s main purpose for the story is. In addition to the purpose, include a possible theme and explain it.

All writing assignments should include basic paragraph construction including a topic sentence, supporting sentences with specific details, and a concluding sentence. Assignments should be typed if a computer is available. A handwritten assignment will be accepted.

Each activity should be on a separate sheet of paper.

For Teacher Only

Written Response Scoring Rubric

Score and Criteria

8-point response clearly demonstrates exceptional understanding of the task, completes all requirements, and provides an insightful explanation/opinion that links to or extends aspects of the text.

6-7-point response demonstrates a basic understanding of the task, completes all requirements, and provides some explanation/opinion using situations or ideas from the text as support.

4-5-point response may address all of the requirements, but demonstrates a partial understanding of the task, and uses text incorrectly or with limited success resulting in an inconsistent or flawed explanation.

2-3-point response demonstrates minimal understanding of the task, does not complete the requirements, and provides only a vague reference to or no use of the text.

Response does not provide enough information for the teacher to evaluate. 1-point response is irrelevant or off-topic or has been plagiarized.