

Mater Dei Catholic High School Summer Reading Assignment

One of the four Integral Student Outcomes at MDCHS challenges students to become “life-long self-directed learners.” With this goal in mind, all students will be participating in a summer reading assignment prior to the 2023-2024 school year. Continue reading to see what teachers for each grade have assigned.

Incoming Freshmen Summer Reading Assignment

Select at least one book from the list below and read it prior to the first day of school. You may read more than one book from the list, but only one is required.

While reading, select ten quotations that you either connect with on a personal level or allow you to think about your world in a different way. You can highlight these quotations, keep track of them with sticky notes, or write them down in a hand-written document.

In the first weeks of the school year, your freshman English teacher will ask you to write about this book in class. Therefore, you will need to read this book to gain a full understanding of the plot, characters, and important ideas. For this assignment, you will be required to bring your book and ten quotations. This assignment will be worth 25 points in the essay/project category of your first quarter grades.

In class, your teacher will be asking you to reflect on ideas similar to the following question: *Choose one character from your summer reading book. What can readers learn from that character's journey and how can you apply it to your own life as you embark on your high school journey?*

Book Options for Incoming Freshmen:

Title	Author
Farewell to Manzanar	Jeanne Wakatsuki Houston
Monster	Walter Dean Myers
Night	Elie Wiesel
The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time	Mark Haddon
Refugee	Alan Gratz
Between Shades of Gray	Ruta Sepetys
Legend	Marie Lu
Dry	Neal Shusterman
Afsoon-Iranian Girl Overcomes Adversity to Become Success Story	Craig Sesker

Incoming Sophomore Summer Reading Assignment

Select at least one book from the list below and read it prior to the first day of school. You may read more than one book from the list, but only one is required. While you read, annotate your book to track your thinking. If you'd like guidance for annotation topics, you can reference the list of questions below. You can also annotate to reflect your personal thoughts and connections.

For your annotations, you can mark in your book (if it belongs to you), keep track of them with sticky notes, or write them down in a hand-written document. This document may not be typed.

In the first weeks of the school year, your sophomore English teacher will ask you to write about this book in class. Therefore, you will need to read this book to gain a full understanding of the plot, characters, and important ideas. For this assignment, you will be required to bring both your book and annotations on the first day of class. This assignment will be worth 25 points in the essay/project category of your first quarter grades.

In class, your teacher will be asking you to reflect on one the following questions, all of which are thematic questions from each unit of English 2:

- *What has this work taught you about portrayals of fear?*
- *What have you learned about the nature of being an outsider from this work?*
- *What has this work taught you about power and freedom?*
- *What have you learned about greed and/or materialism from this work?*
- *What have you learned about forgiveness from this work?*
- *What have you learned about seeing and knowing from this work?*

Book Options for Incoming Sophomores

Title	Author
Angela's Ashes	Frank McCourt
Bless Me, Ultima	Rudolfo Anaya
Lord of the Flies	William Golding
How the Garcia Girls Lost Their Accents	Julia Alvarez
The Book Thief	Markus Zusak
I Am Malala (note: please use one of the ISBNs below)	Malala Yousafzai
ISBN-10 0316322423	
ISBN-13 978-0316322423	
Patron Saints of Nothing	Randy Ribay
The Distance Between Us: A Memoir (note: please use one of the ISBNs below):	Reyna Grande
ISBN-10 1451661789	
ISBN-13 978-1451661781	

Incoming Junior Summer Reading Assignment

Incoming 11th graders will be reading Laura Hillenbrand's *Unbroken* (ISBN: 978-0-8129-7449-2). When students return to school in the fall, US History and AP US History teachers will facilitate a class discussion using this text. This will happen during the first week of school. In order to prepare for this discussion, you are expected to read and annotate this book to gain a clear understanding of its contents. For your annotations, you can mark in your book (if it belongs to you), keep track of them with sticky notes, or write them down in a hand-written document. This document may not be typed. Be prepared for your teacher to assign graded work based on your reading and annotations of this book. Please bring our book during the first week of school.

Incoming Senior Summer Reading Assignment

Catholic Social Teaching Summer Reading Book Details

Beautiful Mercy: Experiencing God's Love So We Can Share It With Others

By [Pope Francis](#) (Author), [Matthew Kelly](#) (Author), [Dr. Scott Hahn](#) (Author), & [24 more](#)

178 Pages ©2015 The Dynamic Catholic Institute. Published by Beacon Publishing.

ISBN: 978-1-942611-50-9

Available on Amazon.com

Synopsis provided by Amazon: Giving and receiving mercy is central to living a life of passion and purpose. Yet, for some reason, most people believe they are either too young or too old, not religious enough, or simply don't have enough time to live a life uncommon.

The perfect companion for the Year of Mercy called for by Pope Francis, the book provides an encounter with the heart of God. **By focusing on the 7 Spiritual and 7 Corporal works of mercy, it inspires readers to realize that extraordinary acts of love are possible for anyone no matter where they are in life.**

Once again bringing to light the genius of Catholicism, bestselling author Matthew Kelly has enlisted the help of 24 incredible authors who witness to the power of God's mercy, provide simple practical tips on how to be an instrument of that mercy and bring hope to anyone searching for deeper meaning in their life.

This book will touch the core of who you are. In the end, we all need God's mercy. So, no matter where you are, not matter what you have been through, there is not a better time than right now to rediscover the incredible power of God's mercy.

***Beautiful Mercy* is an invitation to rediscover God's unconditional love so that we can share it with others.**

Beautiful Mercy includes contributions from: Pope Francis, Matthew Kelly, Dr. Scott Hahn, Cardinal Donald Wuerl, Cardinal Séan Patrick O Malley, Archbishop Charles J. Chaput, Christopher West, Dr. Carolyn Woo, Dr. Allen Hunt, Curtis Martin, Dan Burke, Jennifer Fulwiler, Fr. Mike Schmitz, Sarah Swafford, Lisa Brenninkmeyer, Fr. James Mallon, Msgr. Charles Pope, Sr. Helena Burns, Fr. Michael Gaitley, Fr. Don Calloway, Mother Olga Yaqob, Sr. Marie Veritas, Matt Fradd, Jackie Francois-Angel, Sr. Mary Madeline, Lisa Hendey, Kerry Webber, John Michael Talbot

***** ATTENTION INCOMING SENIORS ... this coming Fall 2023 Semester you will not have a dialectical journal assignment due the first week of class covering this text; rather you WILL have a scantron assessment/test covering the entire book. There will be one to two questions per chapter on your assessment/test. Therefore, as you read, take some good notes, and please read carefully/attentively, ensuring that you are getting the main points of each chapter. Please arrive to school prepared for this upcoming assessment within the first week of class. Thank you, and God Bless you as you read!**