Bishop Verot Summer Reading and Writing for 2026-2027

All students are required to read the grade-level Theology selection as well as 1-3 books for English. Students must also complete a writing assignment on one English book of their choice (students may not use the Theology selection for their essay). All assignments should be completed by the first day of classes.

Theology

Freshman: *Maximilian Kolbe Saint of Auschwitz* by Elaine Murray Stone
Sophomores: *The Voyage of the Dawn Treader* by C.S. Lewis
Juniors: *The Screwtape Letters* by C.S. Lewis
Seniors: *The Story of a Soul* by Therese of Lisieux

***Essay may not be done on Theology selections**

English

*Please see listing under the writing assignment by course level

Summer Writing Assignment

English Summer Reading and Seven Gifts of Christ Essay
Compose a five-paragraph essay which uses three of the Seven Gifts of Christ to analyze, to compare, or to contrast with characters in your Summer Reading works. Pick characters to discuss in your essay from each work you read. If you have only one work, choose a different character for each gift. If you have two works, pick a character from each work and a third from either work. If you have three works, choose a character from each work to connect to the gifts. The connection does not have to be literal; you can apply your interpretation of how the gifts manifest in the work. You can also choose to explore how a character does the opposite of the gifts. The title must be formatted correctly (underline or italicize) and you must give examples from the work to support your claim. Do not just summarize the plot; make a point.

Gifts of Christ

Truth

- I will seek to understand the truth in all situations.
- I will be truthful in the way I act, and respond, and accept truth around me.

Beauty

- I will seek beauty in all things and in all situations.
- I will find the beauty of God's creation and wonders around me.

Goodness

- I will exhibit goodness as God's example during my daily life.
- I will seek goodness in learning situations and remember to see God's likeness and goodness even in my opponents.

Affability

- I can be kind and treat others the way I would want to be treated.
- I can treat others with respect, and I can be approachable and friendly.

Humility

- I embrace the wisdom and knowledge that my mentors and teachers have to offer, and I understand that I can learn from their knowledge and experiences.
- I am humbled with the knowledge and talents I have, and I understand that I can always learn more.

Prudence

- I embrace learning from others, and I understand the importance of sharing my knowledge and talents by teaching others as well.
- I can be prudent in making ethical decisions by using my Catholic faith and values as a moral compass.

Fortitude

- I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.
- I will seek courage in difficult situations in pursuit of what is true, beautiful, and good.

English Books - by course level

Freshman College Prep:
Lord of the Flies (Golding)

Freshman Honors:
Lord of the Flies (Golding)
Princess Bride (Goldman)

Sophomore College Prep:
Of Mice and Men - Steinbeck

Sophomore Honors:
The Jungle - Upton Sinclair
A Raisin in the Sun - Hansberry

Sophomore AP Seminar:
The Great Gatsby - Fitzgerald
Their Eyes Were Watching God - Hurston
Everything is Tuberculosis – Green

Junior College Prep:
Great Expectations - Dickens

Junior Honors:
Heart of Darkness - Joseph Conrad
The Picture of Dorian Gray - Wilde

AP Research:
They Say, I Say - Graft and Birkenstein

AP Language and Composition:
Great Expectations - Dickens
Jane Eyre - Bronte
Frankenstein - Shelley

Senior College Prep:
Animal Farm - Orwell

Senior Honors:
Animal Farm - Orwell
Waiting for Godot - Beckett
Brave New World - Huxley

AP Literature:
Brave New World - Huxley
Klara and the Sun- Ishiguro
The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Nighttime - Haddon