April 16, 2026

Dear Parents of Rising Eighth Grade Students:

I would like for the boys to read at least two books from the attached list during summer vacation. They must read Ernest Hemingway's *The Old Man and the Sea* and at least one other book. Additional books read beyond those two will earn the boys medals and bonus credit in Literature during the first grading period in the fall. The students may read as many books from the list as they wish. Any novel read should be listed on a summer reading form, along with the necessary dates and your signature. Naturally, if a student has read a book from the list prior to summer vacation, that work should not be included on the form.

Note: three books will earn a bronze medal, four will earn a silver medal and five will earn a gold medal. In each of these instances, of course, *Old Man and the Sea* must be one of the books, as it will provide a springboard for discussion and writing during the opening weeks of school. I would suggest that the boys not read the novel too early in the summer, so that they will be able to remember the work with clarity. I also encourage them to annotate and write notes in the margins**.**

Sincerely,

Brendan Moore

Name _____

Summer Reading Form 2026

Create an expandable table in which you respond to the fiction you have read. You must **type** your responses, using Arial 12. Your comments (150-300 words) should be thoughtful and even insightful! Try to avoid merely telling me what happened in the book. For example, what was your reaction to key scenes or characters? What personal memories were evoked for you when you read the novel? What other works (books, short stories, operas, movies, paintings etc.) did the novel remind you of and why? Could you identify the central theme(s) of the work? Evaluate the work, being sure to explain your opinion.

Title of Book & Date Completed	**Comments on the Novel.**
(Remember that novel titles are always underlined or italicized!)	

Parent Signature _____