

Dear Students and Parents:

This summer we begin our tenth year of the Diman Regional Vocational Technical high School Summer Reading Program. We have received feedback from students, staff, parents, and librarians to update and streamline our offerings with contemporary and high interest titles.

To foster a school culture of literacy, to enhance reading skills taught in our classrooms, and to encourage recreational reading, we are requiring **ALL** Diman students read at least one of the suggested books over the summer. Each and every student received a free book(s) Honor students are required to read two chosen free novels. During the first cycle of academics, **ALL** students will be asked to write about these summer selections in their English Language Arts classes. Assessment formats will reflect the differing skill levels of the students and the students will have to produce specific evidence of their reading.

We ask parents for support of this program by encouraging students to read their selected free books in a timely fashion. **The credit for this assessment will be averaged as 15% of their First Trimester grade.** Thank you for your involvement in this program.

Grade 9 - ELA Summer Reading - June 2009

Sorted by Call Number / Author

- FIC LUB Lubar, David. Sleeping freshmen never lie. 1st ed. New York : Dutton Children's Books, c2005.
While navigating his first year of high school and awaiting the birth of his new baby brother, Scott loses old friends and gains some unlikely new ones as he hones his skills as a writer.
- FIC SHA Shan, Darren. Cirque du freak. 1st U.S. ed. Boston : Little, Brown, c2001.
Two boys who are best friends visit an illegal freak show, where an encounter with a vampire and a deadly spider forces them to make life-changing choices.
- FIC SOR Sorrells, Walter. Fake ID. 1st ed. New York : Sleuth/Dutton, c2005.
After a lifetime of moving and assuming new identities, sixteen-year-old Chass begins to piece together the past that haunts her and her mother which involves a mysterious tape, a deceased popular singer, and the secrets of several people in a small Alabama town.
- FIC WES Westerfeld, Scott. Uglies. 1st Simon Pulse ed. New York : Simon Pulse, 2005.
Tally is faced with a difficult choice when her new friend Shay decides to risk life on the outside rather than submit to the forced operation that turns sixteen year old girls into gorgeous beauties, and realizes that there is a whole new side to the pretty world that she doesn't like.

FIC
WOO

Woodson, Jacqueline. If you come softly. New York : Puffin Books, 2000, c1998.
After meeting at their private school in New York, fifteen-year-old Jeremiah, who is black and whose parents are separated, and Ellie, who is white and whose mother has twice abandoned her, fall in love and then try to cope with peoples' reactions.

Grade 10 - Summer Reading 2009

McNamee, Graham. Acceleration. New York : Wendy Lamb Books, c2003.
Stuck working in the lost and found department of the Toronto Transit Authority for the summer, seventeen-year-old Duncan finds the diary of a serial killer and sets out to stop him.

Anderson, Laurie Halse. Catalyst. New York : Speak, 2003, c2002.
Eighteen-year-old Kate, who sometimes chafes at being a preacher's daughter, finds herself losing control in her senior year as she faces difficult neighbors, the possibility that she may not be accepted by the college of her choice, and an unexpected death.

Salisbury, Graham. Eyes of the emperor. New York : Wendy Lamb Books, c2005.
Following orders from the United States Army, several young Japanese American men train K-9 units to hunt Asians during World War II.

Flinn, Alex. Fade to black. 1st ed. New York : HarperTempest, c2005.
An HIV-positive high school student hospitalized after being attacked, the bigot accused of the crime, and the only witness, a classmate with Down Syndrome, reveal how the assault has changed their lives as they tell of its aftermath.

Dessen, Sarah. Keeping the moon. New York : Viking, 1999.
Fifteen-year-old Colie, a former fat girl, spends the summer working as a waitress in a beachside restaurant, staying with her overweight and eccentric Aunt Mira, and trying to explore her sense of self.

Grade 11 - Summer Reading 2009

Rinaldi, Ann. A break with charity : a story about the Salem witch trials. 1st Gulliver Books pbk. ed. Orlando : Harcourt, 1994, c1992.

While waiting for a church meeting in 1706, Susanna English, daughter of a wealthy Salem merchant, recalls the malice, fear, and accusations of witchcraft that tore her village apart in 1692.

Hale, Marian. Dark water rising. 1st ed. New York : Holt, 2006.

While salvaging and rebuilding in the aftermath of the Galveston flood of 1900, sixteen-year-old Seth proves himself in a way that his previous efforts never could, but he still must face his father man-to-man.

Dessen, Sarah. Just listen : a novel. New York : Viking, 2006.

Isolated from friends who believe the worst because she has not been truthful with them, sixteen-year-old Annabel finds an ally in classmate Owen, whose honesty and passion for music help her to face and share what really happened at the end-of-the-year party that changed her life.

Mikaelsen, Ben, 1952-. Touching Spirit Bear. 1st rack ed. New York : HarperTrophy, 2005, c2001.

Fifteen-year-old Cole, trying to avoid prison, agrees to participate in a sentencing alternative based on the Native American Circle Justice, and is sent to a remote Alaskan Island where an encounter with a huge Spirit Bear changes his life.

Carter, Alden R. Up country. New York : Scholastic, 1991, c1989.

When his mother's drinking problem causes him to spend several months with country relatives in upstate Wisconsin, sixteen-year-old Carl begins to build a new life for himself, only to see it threatened by a serious mistake. . .

Grade 12 - ELA Summer Reading 2009

Sorted by Call Number / Author

- B
RUN Runyon, Brent. The burn journals. 1st ed. New York : Knopf :, c2004.
Presents the true story of Brent Runyon, who at fourteen set himself on fire and sustained burns over eighty percent of his body and describes the months of physical and mental rehabilitation that followed as he attempted to pull his life together.
- FIC
AND Anderson, Laurie Halse. Prom. New York : Speak, 2006, c2005.
Eighteen-year-old Ash wants nothing to do with senior prom, but when disaster strikes and her desperate friend, Nat, needs her help to get it back on track, Ash's involvement transforms her life.
- FIC
HAW Haworth-Attard, Barbara, 1953-. Theories of relativity. 1st American ed. New York : Henry Holt, 2005.
When his emotionally volatile relationship with his mother ends with him being kicked out of the house, sixteen-year-old Dylan meets three other teenagers while struggling to survive on the streets and must determine which of them he can trust.

Springer, Nancy. I am Mordred : a tale from Camelot. New York : Firebird,

2002, c1998.

When Mordred learns the identity of his father, he struggles with feelings of hatred, but also fights the fate which determines that he kill the good and gracious king.

FIC
SPR

Domingue, Ronlyn. The mercy of thin air : a novel. New York : Atria Books, 2005.

Following her death in 1920s New Orleans, beautiful Raziela chooses to remain in The Between--a place between life and death--rather than pass on to what lies ahead, hoping to find out what happened to her beloved Andrew.

SPECIAL NEEDS STUDENTS SUMMER READING 2009

Book Choices for Year 2009/2010

Entering

Grade 10

The River by Gary Paulsen

"We want you to do it again. "These words, spoken to Brian Robeson, will change his life. Two years earlier, Brian was stranded alone in the wilderness for 54 days with nothing but a small hatchet. Yet he survived. Now the government wants him to go back into the wilderness so that astronauts and the military can learn the survival techniques that kept Brian alive. Soon the project backfires, though, leaving Brian with a wounded partner and a long river to navigate. His only hope is to build a raft and try to transport the injured man a hundred miles downstream to a trading post-if the map he has is accurate.

That Was Then. This Is Now by S.E. Hinton

That was Then, This Is Now presents two foster brothers, Bryon and Mark, moving apart as one becomes more involved with school and girlfriends while the other moves deeper into a career of crime and drugs. That Was Then, This Is Now shows teenage life and the many decisions and choices teenagers make. It also shows many things that could happen to a teenager. This book shows how people change during their teenage years and how easy it is for friends to grow apart. It also shows many things that could happen to a teenager.

Fever 1793 by Laurie Halse Anderson (243 pages)

During the summer of 1793, Mattie lives above the family coffee shop with her widowed mother and grandfather. Mattie spends her days avoiding chores and making plans to turn the coffee shop to the finest Philadelphia has ever seen. But then the fever breaks out! Disease sweeps the streets, destroying everything in its path and turning Mattie's world upside down. At her feverish mother's insistence, Mattie flees the city with her grandfather only to find the sickness is everywhere! She must learn quickly how to survive in a city frantic with disease.

Entering Grade 11

A Boy at War: A Novel of Pearl Harbor by Harry Mazer

They rowed hard, away from the battleships and the bombs. Water sprayed over them. The rowboat pitched one way and then the other. Then, before his eyes, the Arizona lifted up out of the water. That enormous battleship bounced up in the air like a rubber ball and split apart. Fire burst out of the ship. A geyser of water shot into the air and came crashing down. Adam was almost thrown out of the rowboat. He clung to the seat as it swung around. He saw blue skies and the glittering city. The boat swung back again, and he saw black clouds, and the Arizona, his father's ship, sinking beneath the water.

□ **Perfect** by Natasha Friend

Following the death of her father, a thirteen-year-old uses bulimia as a way to avoid her mother's and ten-year-old sister's grief, as well as her own.

□ **Soldier's Heart** by Gary Paulsen

This is the story of Charley's enlistment and Civil War experiences. Charley Goddard was eager to enlist in the first Minnesota volunteers even though he was only fifteen-years-old. He left his farm to enlist because he didn't want to miss out on a great adventure. He found out that war was full of terrible physical and mental horrors. He was lucky to survive. Charley entered the war a boy and came home a man with a "soldier's heart." The book was based on the life of a real boy.

Entering Grade 12

□ **Skeleton Man** by Joseph Bruchac

“Ever since Molly woke up one morning and discovered that her parents had vanished, she has had to depend on herself to survive – and find the reason for their disappearance. Social Services has turned her over to the care of a great-uncle, a mysterious man Molly has never met or even heard of before. Then Molly starts having dreams about the Skeleton Man from a spooky old Mohawk tale her father used to tell her... dreams that are trying to tell her something... dreams that might save her, if only she can understand them.”

□ **Miracle's Boys** by Jacqueline Woodson

“If things hadn't changed, their parents would still be alive. Charlie would have never gotten busted and sent to Rahway Correctional. Ty'ree would have gone to college instead of having to work fulltime to support them. And Lafayette wouldn't have all of these questions, these *whys*, *whens*, and *hows* clattering around in his head. *Why* did Mama have to die? *Why* does Charlie hate him so much now, and *when* did he turn into such a stranger? And *how* are the three of them – Miracle's sons, her boys – supposed to survive these times together when so much seems to be against them?”

□ **A Boy No More** by Henry Mazer (sequel to A Boy at War)

“WHAT ABOUT WHAT THEY DID TO MY FATHER?...THE JAPS KILLED HIM!” Adam Pelko witnessed something horrible; the sinking of the USS Arizona during the attack on Pearl Harbor—with his father onboard. Since then, Adam and his mother and sister have moved to California, to try and rebuild their lives.

No matter where Adam goes, he can't get away from the effects of the war. His best friend, Davi, has asked for help. Davi is Japanese American, and his father has been arrested, taken to Manzanar, a Japanese internment camp.

Adam isn't sure what to do. If he goes to Manzanar and starts asking questions, he could be risking his own life. But can he simply do nothing and risk losing Davi's friendship forever? Are Davi, his father, and all the other Japanese Americans taken from their homes responsible for what happened at Pearl Harbor?