



June 16, 2010

Dear Parents,

Next year St. Thomas More Cathedral School will be participating in a Diocesan wide competition called Battle of the Books. All 6<sup>th</sup> grade students are invited to participate in this program.

Battle of the Books is a reading enrichment program for 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grade students in elementary schools in the Diocese of Arlington. During the course of the school year participating students read from a pre-selected list of fifteen books and engage in a variety of activities to enhance their understanding and appreciation of the books read. In the spring, teams of students representing each participating school meet for the annual "Battle." The competition is similar to an "It's Academic" or "College Bowl" event where teams from each school are asked questions about the books on the list. The school teams earn points for questions answered correctly. The winning team is awarded a "Battle of the Books" medal which is theirs to keep and display.

Only students in next year's 6<sup>th</sup> grade will be eligible to become part of our team at STM. When we return to school in August, I will ask the students who want to participate in the "Battle" to meet me once a week during their lunch and recess time to discuss the books on the list. Mr. and Mrs. McCants will help as assistant coaches. In the spring, we will choose a team of 5 students and 3 alternates to represent our school in the competition.

The list of books can be found on the STM website under Library. Students **do not** have to read every book on the list but I would **recommend that they read at least 6 books this summer**. I would ask that they **keep a notebook** of their thoughts about the books such as the main plot, characters, conflicts and resolution, as well as comparisons or the books they have read. Even if your child decides not to participate in the "Battle," this is a great list of books for their summer reading enjoyment. Please remember that **these books do not take the place of any other books assigned by their classroom teacher**.

Please speak to your child about participating in this great opportunity. It will take some time and commitment on your child's part, so please make sure they understand that and please know that **this is not mandatory**. Students who love to read will love this opportunity. If you have any questions please contact me at [morourke@stmschool.org](mailto:morourke@stmschool.org) Have a wonderful summer and KEEP READING!

Sincerely,  
Mrs. O'Rourke

