



June 9, 2009

Dear Parents,

Next year St. Thomas More Cathedral School will be participating in a diocesan wide program called “Battle of the Books.” As the new librarian for STM, I will be the group moderator and all 6th grade students are invited to participate

The “Battle of the Books” is a reading enrichment program for 5th and 6th 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 fifth and/or sixth grade students representing each participating school meet for the annual “Battle of the Books” competition. The “Battle” 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” trophy which is theirs to keep and display.

Only students in next year’s 6th grade will be eligible to become part of our team at STM. When we return to school next 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 they are reading. In the spring, we will choose a team of 5 students and 3 alternates to represent our school at the “Battle of the Books.”

I have attached the reading list for next year’s “Battle” and am inviting your child to start reading these books over the summer. Students **do not** have to read every book on the list but if they wish to start their reading then they may. I would ask that students who start their reading keep a notebook of their thoughts about the books to use for next year.

Even if your child decides not to participate in the “Battle” this is a great list of books for their summer reading enjoyment. **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 Have a wonderful summer and KEEP READING!

Mrs. O’Rourke

