

## 2021 Brother Martin High School Summer Reading Frequently Asked Questions

1. What is the summer reading program for 2021? Is it different from past years?

We are repeating the highly successful program begun in 2019 as it meets the needs and interests of our students and our school mission. Research indicates that life-long learning through reading is more likely to take place if students have a choice of books to read and if these books are of high interest and relevant to adolescents' lives.

All students who will be in 9th -12 grades in the fall will be expected to choose one book from the list, read it over the summer, and then engage in a small group discussion facilitated by a faculty member at the start of the school year.

2. What about incoming 8th graders? What summer reading expectations do they have?

The eighth-grade summer reading choice depends on the students' placement in English. Each student was notified of his English placement at New Crusader Registration Day in March. If a student is placed in English I Honors, he will be required to read *Bayou Farewell*, by Mike Tidwell. If a student is placed in English 8, he will read *Shipwreck at the Bottom of the World* by Jennifer Armstrong, a non-fiction title that recounts the attempt of explorer Ernest Shackleton and his crew to reach the South Pole and cross Antarctica. These books will be used during the Summer Enrichment Program, and all requirements will be completed BEFORE the start of the school year. Students who do not attend Summer Enrichment will be given the reading guide for their independent use during the summer. Both books will be available for sale at Brother Martin.

3. What about new incoming 9th graders? What summer reading expectations do they have?

New ninth-graders will read *Make Your Bed: Little Things That Can Change Your Life...And Maybe the World* by Admiral William McRaven. This book will be used during the Summer Enrichment Program and will also be available for sale at Brother Martin. Ninth graders will participate in the small group discussion in August as the culminating activity.

4. What kinds of books are on the list for current students who will be in grades 9-12 this fall?

There are seventy-five titles on the summer reading list for rising students grades 9-12 from a variety of genres: war/diplomacy, spirituality, leadership, mystery, survival/adventure, science fiction, fantasy, and so on. Each book was recommended by a faculty member or by students. Some books are only recommended for upperclassmen due to their subject matter. We encourage students to share their choice with their parents so that all family members are comfortable and excited about the title chosen.

5. Where can we purchase these books?

Books can be purchased from any vendor. In June, they will be available on BNC (<https://bnck-12.com/brothermartin>), the online bookstore with whom we partner for all books required during the school year. **Each student is required to have a print/paper copy of the chosen book in his hands at the book discussion in August.**

6. What test, assignment, etc. should students expect when they return to school?

We will have a small group discussion moderated by the sponsoring teacher as the culminating activity for summer reading; there will be no written assignment or test. We expect our students to be active contributors to this discussion.

7. Do students have to let anyone know what books they chose? If so, how will he do that?

Yes, students must “sign up” for a book using his Brother Martin email. At 6:00 a.m. on April 26, 2021, each student will be sent a “Sign Up Genius” notification via his school email so that he can sign up. Each book is limited to 15 students. Once the maximum number of students is reached, that book is no longer available, and he will have to choose another option. An email receipt is sent to the student’s Brother Martin email confirming his choice. Voting closes at 11:59 p.m. on Wednesday, April 28, 2021. **Students may not select a book they chose in a prior year.**

8. How will students know what the book options are?

Before we open the “Sign Up Genius,” a Google Site will be available to all students in Schoology beginning on April 19, 2021. The site includes a cover picture of each book, a short description, and a recommended grade level. A student should review the titles and select his top choices. Again, the selection is first-come, first served. Posters highlighting the same information for each book are displayed in the Library.

Should you have questions, please email [library@brothermartin.com](mailto:library@brothermartin.com).