

Dear current 4th, 5th, and 6th grade students and parents,

Starting September 2011, students entering the 4th, 5th, and 6th grades are eligible to participate in the **voluntary** Battle of the Books reading program.

Who Should Join

This program is for very strong readers who have a true love of reading. The Battle of the Books selections cover a wide range of writing styles and are best suited for students who are at least at a 5th grade reading level.

Team Make-up

Students will form teams of 3 people within their grade-level. Each team is responsible for reading the 45 books attached to this letter. It is recommended that each team member commit to read at least 15 books.

Forming Teams

We are blessed that St. Monica students wish to make their classmates feel included and valued. In forming teams, I offer these guidelines:

1. If asked to be on a team, please respond with either a yes or a no. "Maybe" means, "Please keep looking for another member while I wait to hear if my team is formed."
2. Reply promptly to a request to join a team.
3. If you have formed a team, but know of someone looking for a team, assist him or her in finding teammates.
4. When forming teams, consider asking new students to our school or new students interested in Battle of the Books to be on your team.

Meetings and Competitions

After school, on each early release Wednesday, September - February, teams will meet to review progress in reading books and to participate in fun activities.

In March, we will hold competitions during school hours. For the competition, teams will be asked questions about the books they have read. The team answering the most questions from each grade will represent St. Monica at the Invitational Meet the evening of April 26.

Requirements to Join

1. Form a team of 3 people within your grade-level
2. Complete the attached Battle of the Books Team Commitment
3. Turn in your Team Commitment to me during the Ice Cream Social after school, 2:30 - 3:30, on September 14, on the playground

Denise Phillips (ad_phillips@msn.com)

BATTLE OF THE BOOKS TEAM COMMITMENT

Name:

Grade:

Battle of the Books Team Name:

15 Books I Commit to Read:

Note: Parent Signature Needed on Back of this Form

Student Signature: _____

Parents,

I am glad to hear that your child wants to join Battle of the Books. I want this activity to be beneficial to your child and to fit into the overall needs of your family. Please acknowledge the following:

1. This voluntary program requires each student to read at least 15 books by the end of February.
2. These books are at least on a 5th grade reading level and cover a wide variety of writing styles.
3. A student's failure to read his or her assigned books can disqualify the entire team from participation in the Battle of the Books competition.
4. This program is fun and fosters a love of reading. Competition is a part of this program. We do expect students to demonstrate good sportsmanship and to be encouraging to all participants in the program.
5. The program is an opportunity to learn how to work cooperatively with others. All students will be challenged to make decisions about forming teams, managing teams, and working together as team. I expect issues to arise and students to work through solutions to these problems as part of this experience.
6. Your child will be asked to attend Battle of Books activities after school on early release Wednesdays, September - February, 2:30 - 3:30.
7. Your child must be available the evening of April 26 for the Invitational Meet if his or her team is the winner in his or her grade-level.
8. Competitions are held during school hours. Because of the restricted areas in which we hold competitions and to reduce distractions, we allow only those parents helping with the competition to be present for the competitions.

Please consider joining me in this program. I would like one parent from each grade level to assist in "crowd control" for the social events we hold after school on early release Wednesdays. I would like 3 parents from each grade to be available for the in-school competitions in March.

Competitions are typically held one day a week, during lunch time, for the first three weeks of March.

_____ I am available to help on early release Wednesdays

_____ I am available to help run the in-school competitions in March

_____ I can provide small gifts to reward excellence in reading

Parent Signature _____