

St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Academy  
21-18 46<sup>th</sup> Street  
Astoria, NY 11105

Dear Incoming 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Students,

We have a very busy and exciting year in store for us in September! Until then, you will have two required reading books for this summer. These texts have been selected to help maintain the focus of this past year's curriculum and build upon it for the coming school year.

As you read, you may take notes to help keep track of plot, important events and facts, interesting questions, connections to other works of literature, theme, and new vocabulary (I recommend using Post-Its). During the first week of school, we will briefly discuss *Murder on the Orient Express*, and you will be tested on it. The second text, *The Wave*, will provide us with a framework for the first few weeks of school as we analyze how a modern work of fiction draws on themes, patterns of events, or character types from myths (CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.8.9).

I have also listed the first novel that we will be reading in the upcoming school year so that you may become excited about the adventures we will be taking.

Have a safe, fun-filled summer and remember to prevent a summer slide by reading and writing often. I am looking forward to a successful year of reading and writing. I am sure we will have a lot of fun learning together.

### **SUMMER**

*Murder on the Orient Express* by Agatha Christie

*The Wave* by Todd Strasser

### **SCHOOL YEAR**

*The Art of Racing in the Rain* by Garth Stein

### **ELA SUPPLY LIST**

1- 3 Subject Notebook

Warmly,

Ms. Christina Masticovo

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