

OUR MISSION IS STUDENT SUCCESS... ACADEMIC, ARTISTIC, AND HUMANISTIC

45 Prince Street Rochester, NY 14607 242-7682

June 8, 2010

Dear Parents/Guardians of Incoming Ninth Graders:

Experts agree that children who read during the summer gain reading skills, while those who do not often slide backward.

With your help, we can help prevent this, “slide backwards.” School of the Arts is proud to continue the **SOTA Summer Reading Program** to all 8th through 12th graders. The **SOTA Summer Reading Program** is designed to help students practice their literacy skills during the non-academic months of summer while encouraging their love of reading.

Students must do the following:

- Read two novels from the **SOTA Summer Reading Book List** for incoming ninth graders
- Complete a **Graphic Organizer** for both novels

Both graphic organizers will be due on Monday, September 13th, 2010. The students will complete a comparative essay in class on the two novels they chose to read from the reading list. The graphic organizers will be used to assist students while they are completing their comparative essay.

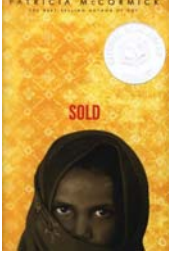

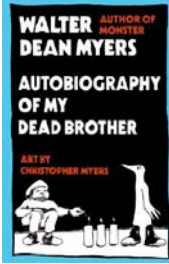

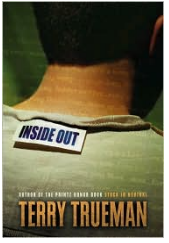
Although novels on the approved list are available in the SOTA Library, novels may also be purchased at all local Barnes & Noble booksellers or borrowed from any Rochester Public Library. Please visit www.sotarochester.org for novel lists and graphic organizers for the SOTA Summer Reading Program.

Thank you for your support of the **SOTA Summer Reading Program**.

Sincerely,

The SOTA English Department

Please choose and read two books from the Incoming 9th Grade SOTA Summer Reading Book List below.

<p><i>Sold</i> by Patricia McCormack</p> 	<p>Lakshmi, 13, knows nothing about the world beyond her village shack in the Himalayas of Nepal, and when her family loses the little it has in a monsoon, she grabs a chance to work as a maid in the city so she can send money back home. What she doesn't know is that her stepfather has sold her into prostitution. She ends up in a brothel far across the border in the slums of Calcutta, locked up, beaten, starved, drugged, raped, "torn and bleeding," until she submits. An unforgettable account of sexual slavery as it exists now. <i>Hazel Rochman</i> Copyright © American Library Association. All rights reserved</p>	<p><i>M or F?</i> by Lisa Papademetriou and Christopher Tebbetts</p> 	<p>Marcus and Frannie are "brain twins," best friends each looking for romance. Frannie thinks she has found just the person in Jeff, but she's much too shy and insecure to send him an e-mail. Marcus, on the other hand, has no problem finding the right words to keep Jeff interested, which he discovers when he impersonates Frannie. This is a creative, funny romance, written with style and sophistication. It's a classic tale of mistaken identity and inaccurate assumptions, filled with twists of plot that will tantalize and please teen readers. <i>Copyright © American Library Association.</i></p>
<p><i>The Autobiography of My Dead Brother</i> by Walter Dean Myers</p> 	<p>Fifteen-year-old Jesse lives a clean and relatively careful life in contemporary Harlem. His best friend and honorary brother, Rise, is two years older and plays life faster and looser. The boys belong to a social club inherited from the men of the older generation. The black-and-white artwork throughout includes both realistic sketches of Jesse's friends and a cartoon-strip take on Rise, adding a dimension that expands readers' views of Jesse's world and of the conflicts presented to the boys.—<i>Francisca Goldsmith, Berkeley Public Library, CA</i> Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc.</p>	<p><i>The Uglies, Series</i> by Scott Westerfeld</p> <p>The four novels in this series are:</p> <p><i>The Uglies</i> <i>The Pretties</i> <i>The Specials</i> <i>The Extras</i></p> 	<p>Playing on every teen's passionate desire to look as good as everybody else, Scott Westerfeld (<i>Midnighters</i>) projects a future world in which a compulsory operation at sixteen wipes out physical differences and makes everyone pretty by conforming to an ideal standard of beauty. The "New Pretties" are then free to play and party, while the younger "Uglies" look on enviously and spend the time before their own transformations in plotting mischievous tricks against their elders. Amazon.com</p>
<p><i>Inside Out</i> by Terry Trueman</p> 	<p>Sixteen-year-old Zach isn't frightened when two armed teenagers hold up the coffee shop where he's waiting for his mother. "The thing is," Zach says, "I'm used to seeing and hearing really weird stuff." In his second novel, the author of <i>Stuck in Neutral</i> (2000) takes readers inside the mind of a schizophrenic teenager. <i>Gillian Engberg</i> Copyright © American Library Association</p>		