

Parents and Students: If your school sent home a list of required summer reading, please be aware of the following issues:

Evangeline Parish library system will not be able to provide each student with books on required reading lists. The library budget has to cover books for all ages, plus computers, newspapers, magazines, videos, DVD's, audios, microfilms, photocopying and fax services and programming for all ages.

The budget does not cover purchasing more than about 4 copies of the same book for use throughout the entire parish system, and--with hundreds of thousands of new books being published each year--for many fine books only 1 copy (or none) is purchased.

If a copy is checked out for three weeks at a time, then perhaps only 3 or 4 students will be able to use that copy during the summer (assuming that the book is returned on time and is not returned late or is lost). Also, with some of the same titles on different reading lists throughout the parish, the library may not be able to transfer a particular book from one branch to another.

Interlibrary loan is not designed for requesting several copies of the same book, and can take one to two weeks for the book to arrive (assuming that another library system is willing to lend it).

We are very sorry for the stress this situation causes to families. We will do our best to assist every family and student, but will not be making major purchases based on reading lists.

Students: Please request books early, come pick the books up as soon as you are notified that they are being held, and read and return them as soon as possible so that other students will also have a chance. Please be aware that titles with waiting lists will not be held more than 3 working days.

Donations of books are also always deeply appreciated.

Parents, Students, School Administrators and Teachers: Thank you all for your cooperation and understanding. As always, we will do our best to help.

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