Dear Parents/Guardians,

Each year Fairfax County Public Schools (FCPS) supports a summer reading requirement in order to encourage students to continue reading and learning over the summer months. West Springfield students are required to read a specified number of books from West Springfield’s grade-level reading lists. This year, FCPS has added a new initiative to encourage even more reading: the Book Your Summer program encourages students to spend the summer reading using the READ! activity card. The READ! card is similar to a Bingo card and allows students to track their reading. Participants who successfully complete a “READ!” card can submit their card online for a drawing to win school prizes: $50 in books of their choice or a laptop.

WSHS will integrate Book Your Summer with our school summer reading assignments. Students may use their assigned summer reading books for English classes to help them complete the READ! Card. The county deadline for submission of the READ! card for the prize drawings is September 7th. For more information and to download the READ! card, go to: http://www.fcps.edu/is/book/

Even if students choose not to participate in the Book Your Summer program, students must still read the required book(s) from West Springfield’s list for their grade level in order to receive credit on their assessments in September. Students will receive the summer reading assignments for their grade levels in their current English classes before the end of the school year. The assignments can also be found on the WSHS website.

Students need not purchase these books; checking them out of the library is fine. We have shared our book lists with local libraries to be sure they have copies on hand for students to check out. On the reverse side of this letter we have listed some online and local sources where the books can be purchased. Some of the older titles on our reading lists are even available to be read online for free, and we have included links in their descriptions. We also have a very limited number of books available for check out from the school’s main office over the summer.

Reading is crucial to academic achievement, and we hope all students will read a variety of books, magazines, and newspaper articles over the summer months to continue honing their reading and thinking skills. We appreciate your help as we all work together to support the academic program at West Springfield High School.

Sincerely,

The WSHS English Department
WSHS Summer Reading- Where to Find Books

AKJ Educational Books Website
Summer reading and annotation books for English courses are available online from AKJ Books, an educational book company that provides a discounted rate to West Springfield families. The web address is readingroom.akjbooks.com. Please note that AKJ charges a small shipping fee per order. Because it is a per order fee, families with more than one child at WSHS will want to order all their books at once to save money. Families can also order annotation books for the 2016-17 school year at the same time to pay one shipping fee. When checking out, be sure to select West Springfield HS under shipping, because we get a better shipping price than some of the other schools listed based on our proximity to the warehouse.

Amazon Website
If you plan to purchase summer reading books from Amazon, be sure to access Amazon via the link on the PTSA webpage at http://wshsptsa.net/, so that the PTSA gets a portion of the proceeds to support their programs for our students.

Barnes and Noble Website
If you purchase your summer reading and/or annotation books online between June 18th and 24th from http://www.barnesandnoble.com/, please include the Book Fair code: 11870466. This will enable the WSHS English department to use a portion of the proceeds to purchase additional books for use in our classrooms.

Springfield Barnes and Noble
We have shared our summer reading lists with the Springfield Barnes and Noble on Loisdale Road. If you shop between June 18th and 24th and mention that you are shopping for the West Springfield High School Bookfair (using code 11870466) the English department will earn a portion of the sales of any books or materials you purchase, with a few exceptions. These funds go directly to buying books for our classes, so thank you for mentioning the WSHS Bookfair at the cash register!

WSHS Spartan Spree
At the Spartan Spree event during the week before school starts in the fall, Barnes and Noble will be on campus with summer reading and annotation books for sale.

Local Libraries
Of course, students may also check books out of the local library. We have shared our lists with the local librarians to facilitate this.

WSHS Main Office
We will have a limited number of summer reading titles available for check out from the main office at WSHS. Remember that summer hours may be limited.