



6th Grade Core Summer Reading 2020-2021

Dear Parents and Students,

Welcome to the Middle School Core Program! Based upon the theories of John Dewey, Howard Gardner and 21st century educational research, Core is an interdisciplinary study, using primary and secondary historical sources, as well as fiction, non-fiction, poetry and drama. The Core curriculum fosters skills that prepare students for a college prep upper school curriculum by encouraging students to think, question, learn, and make decisions based on Jewish and American values.

In aligning our curriculum with our school's mission and philosophy, as well as the middle school's mission statement, Core students participate in independent reading and writing and dynamic small group activities and projects that affirm and support the successes and challenges students face at the Saligman Middle School. Creative projects, cooperative learning and independence as a learner are encouraged. Emphasis is on the development and improvement of skills that include but are not limited to, research, study skills, independent reading, vocabulary, grammar, note-making and organization, writing and critical thinking.

Please find instructions below for Summer Reading. We hope you and your family have a wonderful summer. We look forward to seeing our middle schoolers after summer break!

Sincerely,

The Core Department

Summer Reading Instructions:

Welcome to sixth grade at Saligman Middle School of Barrack Hebrew Academy! This year our Core program will be about "Discovery"; the discovery of civilization and society through archaeology and exploration, and the discovery of self by closely reading literature that grapples with decisions we make. To prepare for this, please read **Sharon Draper's novel *Blended***.

Please bring your book with the sticky notes in it and your typed responses to the questions to Core class on the first day of school.

As you read, please complete the following:

1. Use blue sticky notes to mark places that show character traits of the main characters in the book. Jot the name of the character and the trait on the sticky note
2. Use yellow sticky notes to indicate passages that show major problems and challenges faced by the main characters. Be sure to jot the problem/challenge on the sticky note.

When you complete the reading, please respond to the following questions:

1. At the beginning of the book Mr. Kuzilly has the students write an essay called "The Real Me." Write a paragraph of 5 to 7 sentences about "The Real Me." Focus on a quality, interest or passion you have- something that is important to you and makes you who you are.
2. Answer the following questions about the novel with 2 to 3 sentence responses.
 - a. "What does the piano/music symbolize in this book? What role does it play in Isabella's life?
 - b. As you read the novel, create a list of incidents of discrimination and include page numbers where they can be found.
 - c. Why do you think that Sharon Draper titled the book *Blended*?
3. Choose one of the following creative options to complete:
 - a. Design a different cover for the book. Include a two sentence description of why you chose your design.
 - b. Write a poem of 8 to 10 lines that describes both sides of Isabella. (It does not have to rhyme:)

Guidelines for Question Responses

1. Responses must be typed and turned in during the first week of school.
2. All responses must be written in complete sentences that include the question in the answer.
3. Be sure your responses are proofread and spell-checked.
4. Be sure your answers reflect your ideas and interpretation of the story.
5. Use size 12 font and be sure your responses are double spaced.
6. Your paper must have a proper heading:

In the **upper left hand corner**

Your Name

Class(Core 6)

Date