

Open a book to close your summer

Pooja Parameshwar
News Editor

Whether it is sitting on an airplane or laying out poolside, summer reading allows students to complete an assignment while making the most of their summer.

Every year, the summer reading committee, comprised of teachers and students alike, compiles a list of books for each grade level. The list of summer reading books is mailed home and can also be found on the Fremd website.

Summer reading books cover a variety of genres and topics, so students can choose a book that interests them most. Students are expected to read their summer reading selection before school starts in the fall.

Senior Hannah Fox thinks that summer reading helps students get back into the school mindset by making them actively read their summer reading book.

"Summer reading definitely focuses you to start reading and writing again," Fox said. "It is important to write down important scenes to help you know what is going on."

English teachers require that their students write an essay about the book they read once they return to school. Essay prompts vary depending on the level of the class and the teacher.

According to English teacher Kristy

Loughin-Vance, summer reading responses reveal several aspects about the student.

"The essay shows writing skill, comprehension of the book and question, and higher level thinking. [My advice] is to find the deeper meaning," Loughin-Vance said. "What I look for [in the essay] is that the question is answered, and the student proves something."

Students should use various strategies such as highlighting important dialogue and phrases to help them when it is time to write their in-class essay.

English teacher Chris Pagnani believes that the effectiveness of reading strategies depends on the student.

"For avid readers, I would suggest reading the book twice to really spend time on the nuances and to not just rush to the ending," Pagnani said. "For more reluctant readers, I would recommend that they read the book closer to the end of the summer so it is more recent in their memory."

During the essay writing process, students are advised not to summarize the novel. Assume that the person reading your essay has already read the book and is aware of the events or characters mentioned.

"The biggest blunder I see in students is that they spend too much time proving



Logue photo by Hanna Cho

READ UNDER THE SUN. These are a few of the options available to freshmen for summer reading. The rest of the list can be found in the mailed-home pamphlet or on Fremd's website.

they read the book, providing summary details and not addressing the question," Pagnani said.

Summer reading books are available at most local bookstores or libraries.

Teachers do not require that students purchase their summer reading books, although that might be helpful for active readers who take notes or highlight key facts directly in the book.

Pagnani encourages students to think of summer reading as less of a homework assignment and more of a chance to connect to a story.

"The more students invest themselves and enjoy the book, the more success they will have while writing the response," Pagnani said. "Think about the author's message and how it is meaningful and apply it to your response."

New mentoring program offers freshmen guidance and support

Liz Amanieh
News Editor

As a new chapter approaches, many freshmen are absorbing the idea of being in high school. Students turn to alumni or older siblings for support and advice.

However, there is something new at Fremd that will allow you to do just that during class. Viking Advisory and Mentoring Program (VAMP) is a new initiative created by business education teacher Chad Jonas and psychologist Taylor Morello.

The program will guide freshmen through the entire year, helping them to get acclimated to the school and become more involved. The goal is to give freshmen a sense of confidence and comfort in their new academic environment.

Jonas explains the reason he wanted to start this program.

"I would see some freshmen struggling as to when and where clubs meet, and it kind of came to light. We want to bridge that gap [between upperclassmen and underclassmen] in order to bring the school together," Jonas said.

Counselor and VAMP committee member Antonette Minniti describes the collaborative process of VAMP.

"This summer, there is a small committee also working on the organization and content of the program, and this committee includes myself, [math teacher] Ken Goettsche, Jonas, [English teacher] Kristy Loughin-Vance, Morello and [English teacher] Josh Teschner."

VAMP will meet four days a week during either the first or second half of all lunch periods for the entire school year.

Half of the freshman class will be chosen for VAMP at random. If you are not selected, you can ask one of the committee members to be placed in this program, but spaces are limited.

Freshmen will be organized into groups led by an upperclassman mentor.

"This structure is intended to foster relationships and provide a comfortable transition from junior high to high school," Jonas said.

Jonas explains the reason for incorporating upperclassmen mentors.

"These mentors will show the freshmen how to survive, in general, in high school," Jonas said.

Upperclassmen will interact with the freshmen by participating in various team-building activities and also by

reviewing policies, procedures, expectations, resources and extracurriculars.

Junior and VAMP mentor Aamani Paturi looks forward to giving helpful advice to freshmen who are involved in VAMP.

"You shouldn't be intimidated. Be yourself and be open," Paturi said.

Mentors will be available to assist students deal with problems or situations that could evolve during high school.

Freshman Max Provan sees the advantages of VAMP. "I think it will be nice to get to know upperclassmen better and be able to get advice from them," Provan said.

Freshmen selected for the program will be notified of their placement and will receive more information in the mail this summer.

For those who are selected, junior and VAMP mentor Anthony Comstock believes that VAMP offers incoming freshmen an opportunity to see what Fremd offers in its entirety.

"Get involved," Comstock said. "Make the most out of high school by taking advantage of how VAMP introduces you to everything offered."

Freshman Kickoff aims to prepare students for upcoming experiences

Emily Beeson
Lead News Editor

The Freshman Kickoff will be held throughout the school building on Thursday Aug. 19 from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

The Kickoff will allow incoming freshmen to find their classes and decorate their lockers as well as meet coaches and club sponsors while enjoying complimentary hot dogs, chips and drinks.

Freshman Morgan Hughes already knows which part of the Kickoff she will enjoy the most.

"I'm looking forward to decorating my locker because I'm into art," Hughes said. "I'll probably join some art clubs."

The Freshman Tailgate from previous years was held outdoors. Due to instructional purposes, it was moved indoors and changed to the Freshman Kickoff, according to counselor Suzanne Adamski.

Club sponsors and coaches will be in the cafeteria along with the food.

"It's inside but not because of the weather," Adamski said. "We want the freshmen to learn how to use the cafeteria."

Senior Jennifer Burns remembers her Freshman Tailgate experience.

"I went with my neighbor who showed me how to use the lunch lines, so I guess I was lucky," Burns said.

"But it's good that the freshmen get to learn that, too."

In order for freshmen to receive their lunch, they will have to complete

the previously optional scavenger hunt. This change is meant to give freshmen a chance to become more acquainted with the building, according to Adamski.

"The scavenger hunt will include places like the gym locker rooms, the media center and the tutoring center, places that [students] will need to know," Adamski said. "It usually takes around 15 to 20 minutes."

Hughes considers the positives and negatives to having a required scavenger hunt.

"I think that it'll be fun, but it'll be crowded too," Hughes said. "I'm really bad with directions so it'll be nice to walk around

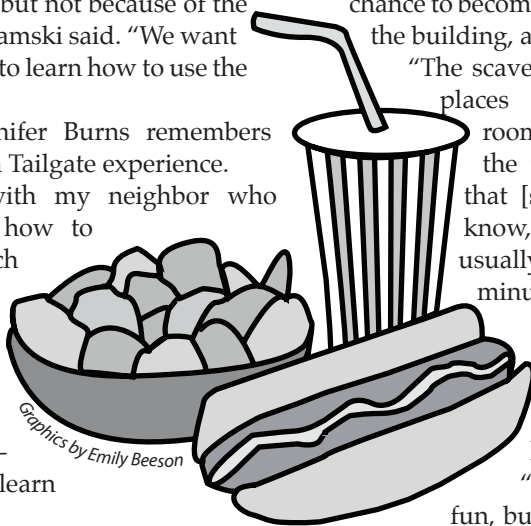
before I have to do it by myself."

The Viking Advisory and Mentoring Program (VAMP) will be present to help guide students throughout the school and will be at various locations included in the scavenger hunt, according to Adamski.

"In previous years with the Viking Ambassadors, the freshmen liked connecting with an older peer," Adamski said. "It'll be similar this year but with the VAMP kids."

By enjoying food in the cafeteria and touring the school, Hughes hopes the Kickoff will symbolize an eventful freshman year.

"In general, I'm looking forward to getting to meet new people and joining new activities," Hughes said. "There are a lot of opportunities to accomplish new things."



Graphics by Emily Beeson