



IMMACULATE HEART OF MARY

SCHOOL

Dear Rising 1st and 2nd Grade Students and Families,

The theme for the 2022/23 school year for the Archdiocese of Baltimore is One Body in Christ. As a school and parish, we will have many opportunities to appreciate the diversity present within each one of us as we renew our faith using our God given talents for the good of others. Here at IHM, we also want to focus on seeing and appreciating those talents in each person we encounter. This happens in a very particular way when we value diversity and show empathy for others. Diversity and empathy are cornerstones of our Catholic faith and were demonstrated by Jesus in many ways. In order for children to grow and develop in appreciation of diversity and empathy, they must be exposed purposefully to situations where those two ideals combine.

Literature is one way for students to encounter the need for valuing diversity and empathy for all of God's creation. For the summer reading assignment for rising 1st and 2nd graders at Immaculate Heart of Mary School, students will be REQUIRED to read the following book: *The Name Jar* by Yangsook Choi by the first day of school, Monday, August 29, 2022 in order to complete an in-school assignment during the first week related to the book. This assignment will be worth 30 points and will serve as your child's first ELA grade for the first trimester of school. There will be no written work that needs to be completed over the summer for this book. Students can check the book out of their local public library or purchase through a local retailer.

The Name Jar is a picture book that focuses on a young Korean girl, named Unhei, who moves to America with her family and begins to attend a new school where she begins to wonder if she should select a new name to go by. While her classmates suggest a variety of new names, Unhei struggles with honoring her past while wanting to fit into her present. She questions if having a name that people do not know how to spell or pronounce is a good thing or a bad thing.

While this is the only requirement for summer reading, we encourage all students to read daily throughout the summer. Reading is an important part of the early grades in elementary school and the more practice that your child has, the greater their confidence will grow. We encourage your child to read a variety of books, practice sight words as well as letter names and sounds. All of these methods will help your child maintain their reading skills. Remember too that we continue to encourage you reading to your child and your child reading to you. Another way to practice reading is to “buddy read” where you take turns reading words/sentences/pages in a book with your child. Listening to audiobooks can also grow and develop your child’s reading skills. Learning to read is a crucial part of your child’s educational experience and we thank you in advance for all of the time that you dedicate to this.

We look forward to discussing the above book(s) with your student at the start of the 2022/23 school year.

Sincerely,
IHM Grade 1 & 2 Teachers

