



# IMMACULATE HEART OF MARY

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## SCHOOL

Dear Rising 5th and 6th 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 5th and 6th graders at Immaculate Heart of Mary School, students will be REQUIRED to read the following book: *Wish* by Barbara O'Connor 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.

*Wish* is a middle school level chapter book where the main character, Charlie Reese, an eleven year old girl, believes in the power of making wishes as a way to make sense of the world around her. Charlie is sent to live with relatives she does not know well in the mountains of North Carolina as her parents are unable to care for her anymore due to a variety of circumstances. Charlie learns how to be part of a family and show compassion through her interactions with a stray dog, Wishbone, as well as with a neighborhood boy, Howard, who encourages Charlie to see the best in the crazy world around them.

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 late elementary school/early middle school learning as it permeates all academic subject areas and reading over the summer assists students with keeping up their critical thinking and reading comprehension skills.

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

Sincerely,  
IHM 5th and 6th Grade ELA Teachers