

# Summer Reading 4th Graders 2025

St John the Beloved Academy



## Greetings Parents and Students

Dear Parents,

The books, stories and poems have been carefully selected to foster an enjoyable and thoughtful reading experience. Enjoy this special time with your child. These assignments are meant to be enriching and meaningful. Be sure to balance the assignments with lots of fun, enjoyable time outside with family and friends.

Best to you and your family,

Mr. Jeffrey P. Presberg  
Headmaster

## House of Alpha



Love

## House of Blue



Contemplation

## House of Eagle



Inspiration

## House of Omega



Wisdom

### Core Elements for Rising 4th Graders

#### Journal & Books

- You will need a writing journal
- Choose 3 books to read from the list below or pick a book(s) from the recommended reading list.
- Draw a picture of something interesting from each book. First sketch the picture in pencil and then color.
- Write 1-2 paragraphs in your journal describing each picture (pictures may be drawn and placed inside your journal if you would like).

The Black Stallion - Walter Farley

Farmer Boy - Laura Ingalls Wilder

Peter Pan - James Barrie

The Singing Hill - Meindert DeJong

Ginger Pye or The Moffats - Eleanor Estes

The Whipping Boy or By the Great Horn Spoon! - Sid Fleischman

The Boy Knight - G.A. Henty

The Box of Delights - John Masefield

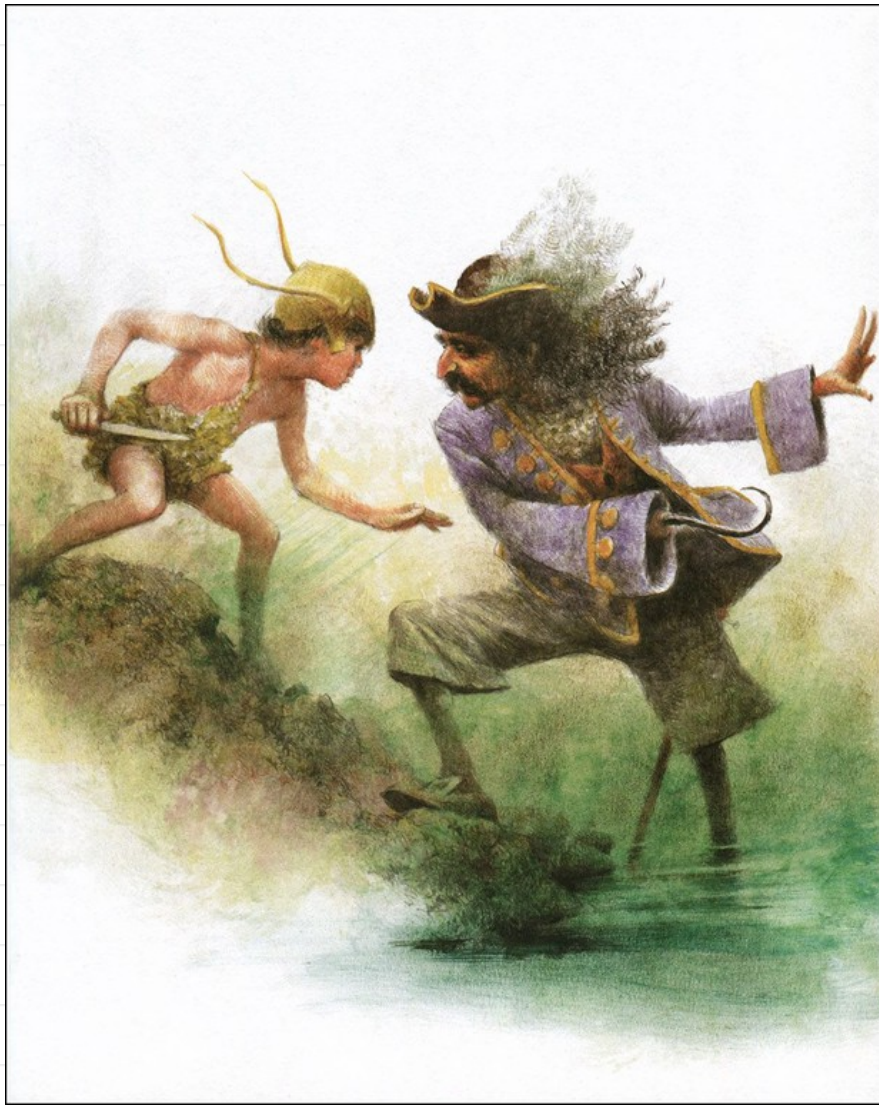
Escape from Mr. Lemoncello's Library - Chris Grabenstein

The Puppets of Spelhorst or The Tale of Despereaux - Kate DiCamillo

The Bicycle Spy - Yona McDonough

I Survived...Series - Lauren Tarshish





*Peter Pan* illustration by Robert Ingpen

## Poems

- Read all four recommended poems, copy one in your journal and memorize, reciting it at home (at the dinner table or some other spontaneous moment). This will also be recited at school.

"Be Strong" by M.D. Babcock

"George Washington" by Stephen and Rosemary Benet

"Jim" by Hilaire Belloc

"The Arrow and the Song" by Henry Wadsworth Longfellow

## Spiritual

- Read the Nativity scene from the Gospel: Luke 2: 1-20 (Nativity)
- Imagine you are a shepherd at the scene of Christ's birth in a cave in Bethlehem. Describe the scene and tell it like a story, beginning with first seeing and hearing the angels and then traveling to find the baby.

Please examine N.C. Wyeth's illustrations "On Christmas Night in Bethlehem Town" and Henry Ossawa Tanner's "Annunciation to the Shepherds" (*below*) to help you enter the scene of those moments.

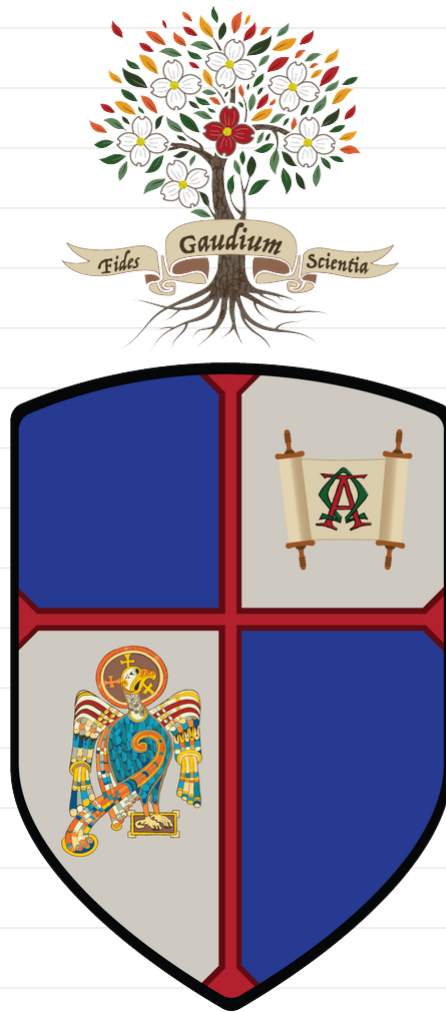
- Suggestion, pray this joyful mystery of the rosary at least once a week. Before you pray it, pause for a few moments, be still and imagine the scene of the nativity as if you were there, perhaps also imagining how Mary or Joseph felt at that moment.



*"You can make anything by writing."* C.S. Lewis

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## St John the Beloved Academy

Saint John the Beloved Academy was founded in 1954 to offer quality Catholic education to parish children. Saint John the Beloved Academy continues to provide children in preschool through eighth grade with a Catholic liberal arts education rooted in rich tradition of academic excellence and spiritual formation, captured by the school's motto, "*Fides, Scientia, et Gaudium.*" By Faith, children are led beyond themselves to entrust their formation to God. By forming the entire child, we impart the Knowledge for both intellectual and spiritual growth. The Mission of Saint John the Beloved Academy is manifested in genuine Christian Joy—rooted in the Sacraments, self-sacrifice, charity, and service to others.

Top painting: *The Bridle Path* by Winslow Homer



Christine White



