

Dear MSA 6th, 7th, and 8th Grade Parents:

Your child has the opportunity to participate in **MSA Battle of the Books**, which is an opportunity to read great books, discuss them with team members, and experience reading as a “team sport.” The live Battle will be in January, and parents/families/coaches are invited to watch. There is no cost to participate in this program, and it is open to all 6th, 7th, and 8th grade students.

There are eight Battle books (same books for all grades), which are available for check-out in Mr. Fillbrandt’s (6th grade English) room. *[Due to limited copies of the books, students can only check out one Battle book at a time!]* Each grade is broken up into several teams of ~4-6 team members. Since this is a “team effort,” each team member should **plan to read four or more** of the Battle books over the next few months. Teams will meet with a volunteer coach during the school day (Friday’s study hall) at least once each month to discuss the books and prepare for the Battle.

The Battle of the Books competition will be held at **MSA on Friday, January 31st during advisory/study hall.**

There will be the following prizes:

- * If a student reads all 8 books, the student is invited to an ice cream social (immediately after the Battle).
- * If a team wins the actual Battle, the team wins a pizza lunch (at a following date)!

Before signing this permission slip, **please discuss with your child the importance of following through when making a commitment.** If your child signs up for a team and then drops out, it leaves the former teammates at a disadvantage. This is very important!

Sign up procedure: Students may request teammates of their choice on their permission slip, and we will *try* our best to assign them their choices (no guarantees). Teams will meet during study hall periods on Fridays. A “Meet Your Team” meeting will be scheduled on Friday, November 1st at 3:15pm during study hall. Please watch for announcements in the daily emails on upcoming dates and information.

Students will not be assigned to a team unless their permission slip is returned.

Please contact any of the following (Battle of the Books Committee) if you have questions.

Mike Fillbrandt 6th English Teacher (mfillbrandt@mnmsa.org)

Michelle Richards, 7th English Teacher (mrichards@mnmsa.org)

Teresa Ward, 8th English Teacher (tward@mnmsa.org)

Tammy Barnaby, Parent Volunteer Coordinator (tomatozoo@yahoo.com)

Please see the MSA Battle of the Books webpage for more information:

MSA webpage->Extracurricular Activities->Battle of the Books <https://www.mnmsa.org/activities/battle-books/>

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Please detach and return this portion **by Monday, October 14th** to your child’s English teacher.

My child has my permission to participate in Battle of the Books. **PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY.**

Student Name: _____ Grade: _____ English Period: _____

Teammate Requests : _____

Parent’s E-mail (PRINT CLEARLY): _____ Parent’s Phone: _____

Student’s MSA E-mail (PRINT CLEARLY): _____ Advisory Teacher: _____

PLEASE use the best email(s) to contact you/your student in regards to meetings. This is very important and is how the volunteer coach will communicate with you/your student for when meetings will occur!

Parent Signature: _____

PARENT COACH VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED! This program can not happen without parent’s support!

The time commitment is minimal : 30+ minutes per month. Coaches will meet with their teams once a month or more (no more than once per week), act as mentors to the team, keep track of how many books each member has read, etc. Meetings will be on Fridays at the end of the day (during study hall period).

I WOULD LIKE TO VOLUNTEER AS A COACH: (Circle One) YES! No, thank you!

Volunteer coach’s meeting will be Friday, November 1st in the Great Hall at 2:50pm. Meet Your Team is scheduled for immediately after the volunteer coach’s meeting (3:15pm).