

Dear 3rd and 4th grade Parents,

Peace! My name is Jean Timmerman. I am coaching Saint Teresa's Page One Level I team beginning in February. If you have no idea what Page One is, read on! This is an introductory, informational letter to let you know what this wonderful reading program is about and to invite you and your child to be a part of this year's team.

Page One is an extra-curricular reading program for students in 3rd-8th grades. (Level I consists of 3rd-4th graders. Level II is for 5th-6th graders. 7th-8th graders are in Level III.) Some of the goals of Page One are: to get children reading; help them develop an interest in literature; expose them to different kinds of literature; facilitate sharing and discussing books with each other; and *to have a lot of fun!*

The children who join Page One agree to read a number of books. Level I offers a list of about 100 books – 40 chapter books and 60 picture books. The children are not expected to read all of them, though some avid readers do. They should simply read what is feasible for their ability and interest. The list is published in May and is filled with fun, interesting, informative, creative literature. I advise you not to begin reading them yourself or you will get lost in the enjoyable reading and may not surface again for weeks. When we finish the list each year we go through a period of mourning. ☺

The children who are interested in Page One will begin meeting in February. After a couple of weeks we will administer a multiple choice test (related to the books on the list) to determine the competition teams. The scores on this test will determine the competing teams for St. Teresa school. Everyone is allowed to compete on a team, though we do place the highest scorers together. (teams of 5)

While the competition is one fun aspect of Page One, children are not required to compete. Anyone who desires to be a part of the program is welcome, no matter how s/he does on the test. Beginning in February we will meet weekly to read, play games, have fun with the Page One books. There is a "Fun Day" in March where *everyone* (including other Diocesan schools) is invited to play carnival-type games, answering questions related to the books. This is always one of the highlights of the season. Again, anyone is welcome to attend the meetings and Fun Day, whether they are choose to compete or not.

There is no need to make a commitment right now. (That will come in January.) I do need to begin planning, however. **If you think your child is likely to take part, or if you have questions, please email me (jeantimmerman@neb.rr.com).** Registration begins in January. Meetings will be on Mondays (February 4 – April 8) after school at my home (637 South 40th Street) from 3:30 until 5:00.

Even if you don't want to take part, the book list is a great resource of good literature for your child's reading level. The book list is published online. The most important thing I wanted to let you know is that the program exists and everyone is welcome. If your child is ready to start reading, you can find the book list with more Page One information at <https://nebpageone.weebly.com>.

May God bless each one of you!

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