



## **GERSTELL ACADEMY MIDDLE SCHOOL PRESIDENT'S LEADERSHIP CHALLENGE SUMMER 2011**

The President's Leadership Challenge is a voluntary experience. It is an opportunity for students to expand their horizons and challenge themselves beyond the required reading of three books and the Book of Knowledge over the summer. The purpose is to challenge students in the areas of leadership, academics, and physical fitness.

***LEADERSHIP:*** This part of the voluntary challenge will expose the student to leadership and social experiences and environments they might otherwise not be familiar. The student will choose one of the following options and then write a Leadership Experience Report (1-2 pages) on what they learned. This form is available on the Gerstell Academy website under Summer Reading. The time spent at your selected site/event should be at least 1 hour. Leadership options are offered below.

***ACADEMICS:*** Read three books as required according to the summer reading guidelines, read your Book of Knowledge, and then read a fourth book from the paired subject area not previously chosen for your required reading (Four books, one from each of the four paired subject areas, and the Book of Knowledge).

***PHYSICAL FITNESS:*** Meet or exceed your last scores on your President's Physical Fitness test in 4/5 areas. If you did not take the test last year, you must meet the standards for the 50th percentile in 4/5 areas for your age/gender group. Everyone will take this test your first week back in school. Please refer to the attached Physical Fitness Program packet or visit [www.presidentschallenge.org](http://www.presidentschallenge.org) for more information.

### ***THE LEADERSHIP OPTIONS:***

Select a site, event or activity that you have not experienced before.

1. Visit/attend services at a house of worship that you are not familiar with
2. Visit a waste dump or recycling center
3. Attend a meeting of your local town council
4. Take a tour of a factory to see how something is made
5. Visit a battlefield or historical site. (Gettysburg, Antietam, Jamestown, Fort McHenry, Williamsburg, Harper's Ferry, etc.)

6. Visit Arlington Cemetery
7. Visit the WWI, WWII, Korean, and Vietnam War Memorials
8. Visit the Jefferson, Lincoln, and FDR Memorials
9. Visit the Baltimore Museum of Art, or the National Gallery of Art in Washington, D.C., or the National Portrait Gallery in Washington, D.C.
10. Attend the ballet or a classical musical concert performance in Baltimore or Washington, D.C.

**NOTE:** Book reports and Leadership Experience Reports are due to your Advisor at Orientation. They are to be typed or neat and legible. They must follow the proper format and give complete answers to the questions on the form. Students will be tested on the physical fitness component of the President's Leadership Challenge their first week back in school. Awards and recognition will occur by the second week in October. We respectfully request that parents support their student(s) by allowing their Book and President's Challenge reports to be the student's own work. Thank you.

### ***THE REWARD***

In addition to the reward of developing as a leader, all successful challengers are recognized as follows:

- ~ Gift Certificate to Borders
- ~ Lunch with Dr. Smith
- ~ A "Follow a Leader/Lead by Example" T-shirt
- ~ A write-up in our first Middle School Newsletter
- ~ Awards Ceremony with Dr. Smith

If you have any questions, comments, or concerns, please call the Middle School office at 410-861-4200.