



2023 7th and 8th Grade Summer Reading Program

Dear Parents and Students,

Summer is a wonderful time to enjoy reading! This summer, incoming 7th and 8th graders are being provided with a list of suggested books. Please look over the titles, authors, pictures, and summaries to select a few that interest you. This list reflects the wide range of interests, maturity, and reading levels that comprise middle school students. We encourage parents to be a part of their children's summer reading selections.

Goals for Summer Reading

AT HOME	IN SCHOOL
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Foster a love of reading -Advance literacy by engaging in reading activities -Increase reading through self-selected, voluntary reading 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Enhance a sense of community -Provide a common reading experience -Stimulate discussion and critical thinking

Reflect on Yourself as a Reader

How do I best demonstrate that I comprehend the text?	When and where do I best concentrate on reading?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -I reread parts of the book. -I make predictions. -I ask questions. -I make connections. -I summarize parts of the book. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -In the morning -Before going to sleep -At my desk -On my bed -Lying on the floor

Parent Tips to Encourage Reading

1. Set a schedule for reading. Make it the same time every day.
2. Read with your child and model good reading habits.
3. Talk about your child's book. Let them tell you a summary, discuss the time period, etc.
4. Consider reading aloud to your child.
5. Celebrate reading with rewards!

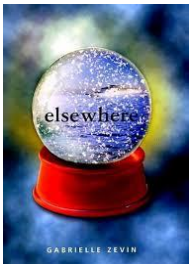
List of Suggested Titles by Genre

Realistic Fiction:



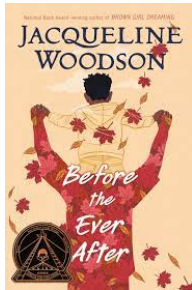
Stargirl by Jerry Spinelli

In this story about the perils of popularity, the courage of nonconformity, and the thrill of first love, an eccentric student named Stargirl changes Mica High School forever.



Elsewhere by Gabrielle Zevin

Elsewhere is where fifteen-year-old Liz Hall ends up, after she has died. It is a place so like Earth, yet completely different. Here Liz will age backward from the day of her death until she becomes a baby again and returns to Earth. But Liz wants to turn sixteen, not fourteen again. She wants to get her driver's license. She wants to graduate from high school and go to college. And now that she's dead, Liz is being forced to live a life she doesn't want with a grandmother she has only just met. And it is not going well.



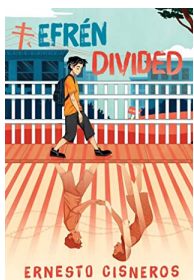
Before the Ever After by Jacqueline Woodson

12-year-old ZJ finds support from his mom and three close friends, as he tries to enjoy his dad's more lucid moments, and worries when things start to fall apart. A crisis near the end of the story results in Dad being admitted to the hospital, with the hope that he'll get the care he needs, but nothing guaranteed.



Black Brother, Black Brother by Jewell Parker Rhodes

Black Brother, Black Brother is a careful examination of the school-to-prison pipeline and follows one boy's fight against racism and his empowering path to find his voice.



Efrén Divided by Ernesto Cisneros

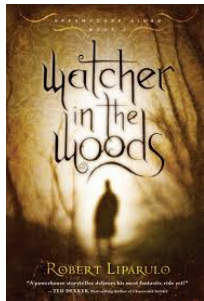
This book is about a young boy's desire to bring his family together after being separated by ICE and learning that he has more power than he realized. Cisneros reminds readers that at the end "somos semillitas."



Wink by Rob Harrell

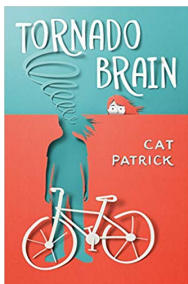
Wink tells the story of a pre-teen boy who is diagnosed with a rare form of cancer, one which has attacked the gland that produces tears. Just when Ross starts to feel like he's losing his footing, he discovers how music, art, and true friends can change everything. Filled with Rob Harrell's comic panels and spot art, this novel brings effortless humor and hope to an unforgettable, uplifting story of survival.

Mystery:



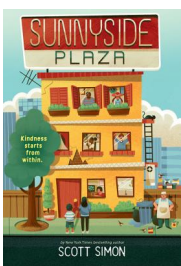
Watcher in the Woods by Robert Liparulo

The Kings are focused on rescuing their long lost family member before anyone finds out the bizarre things that are occurring in their home, but when a stranger takes an interest in the run-down old place, can they be trusted? Will the Kings be able to find a way to harness the house's secrets and discover who is watching their every move before another gets snatched into an unknown world?



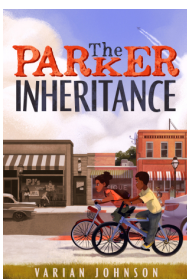
Tornado Brain by Cat Patrick

In this heartfelt and powerfully affecting coming of age story, a neurodivergent 7th grader is determined to find her missing best friend before it's too late.



Sunnyside Plaza by Scott Simon

Wonder meets Three Times Lucky in a story of empowerment as a young woman decides to help solve the mystery of multiple suspicious deaths in her group home. Sally Miyake can't read, but she learns lots of things. Like bricks are made of clay and Vitamin D comes from the sun.



The Parker Inheritance by Varian Johnson

12-year-old Candice has to spend the summer in Lambert, South Carolina, due to her parents' divorce. When she and her mom take up residence in her deceased grandmother's house, Candice finds a letter alluding to a town tragedy and offering clues to a mysterious fortune.



***Look Both Ways* by Jayson Reynolds**

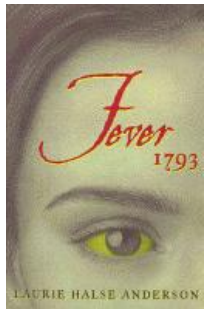
Ten stories are told in parallel, each following different middle-graders home from school. Ten tales (one per block) about what happens after the dismissal bell rings.



***Girl, Stolen* by April Henry**

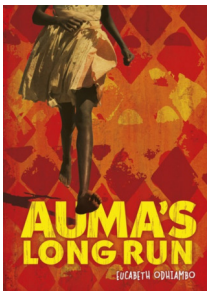
When an impulsive carjacking turns into a kidnapping, Griffin, a high school dropout, finds himself more in sympathy with his wealthy, blind victim, sixteen-year-old Cheyenne, than with his greedy father.

Historical Fiction:



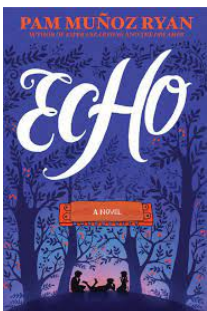
***Fever, 1793* by Laurie Halse Anderson**

In 1793 Philadelphia, sixteen-year-old Matilda Cook, separated from her sick mother, learns about perseverance and self-reliance when she is forced to cope with the horrors of a yellow fever epidemic.



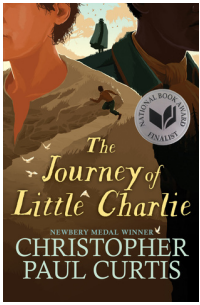
***Auma's Long Run* by Eucabeth A. Odhiambo**

Auma, a young runner who dreams of getting a scholarship to high school so that she may one day become a doctor. She has a good life. She lives with her three younger siblings and mother in the small village of Koromo in Africa.



***Echo* by Pam Munoz Ryan**

Lost and alone in a forbidden forest, Otto meets three mysterious sisters and suddenly finds himself entwined in a puzzling quest involving a prophecy, a promise, and a harmonica.



***The Journey of Little Charlie* by Christopher Paul Curtis**

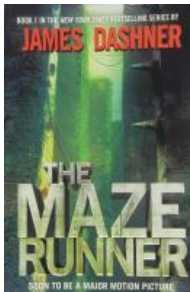
Charlie Bobo, a 12-year-old the size of a full-grown man, comes from an unlucky family in Possum Moan, South Carolina. His father (Pap) tries to chop down a tree that sparks and kills him. The sheriff suspects Charlie of murder until he discovers a piece of flint was embedded in the tree.

Science Fiction:



***Gone* by Michael Grant**

In the blink of an eye, everyone disappears. Gone. Except for the young. There are teens, but not one single adult. Just as suddenly, there are no phones, no internet, no television. No way to get help. And no way to figure out what's happened, or how to prevent disappearing on your birthday, just like everyone else...



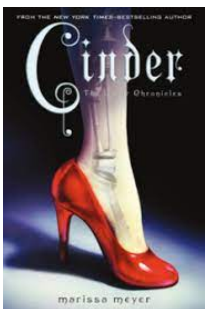
***The Maze Runner* by James Dashner**

Sixteen-year-old Thomas wakes up with no memory in the middle of a maze and realizes he must work with the community in which he finds himself if he is to escape.



***Zom-B* by Darren Shan**

B Smith (gender not revealed until the end) is a punk, a bully, and a thug, easily falling into the trap of racism because of an overbearing father. B silently questions that ignorance but ultimately finds it easier, and safer, to conform to Dad's ideals rather than take a stand, as well as another beating. When the zombies attack, B is able to channel this aggression and anger and help lead fellow students trying to find a safe haven and escape.



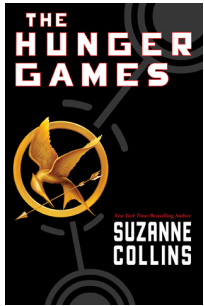
***Cinder* by Marissa Meyer**

Cinder, a cyborg girl living in New Beijing with her cruel stepmother, meets the famous Prince Kai when she is asked by him to fix his broken android. She is able to hide the fact that she is a cyborg from him.



***Dragon Pearl* by Yoon Ha Lee**

Dragon Pearl is about a 12-year-old girl named Min, who learns that the older brother she adored, Jun, has deserted the Space Forces. Refusing to believe the investigator, Min flees her desolate home on the planet Jinju, a planet that was not fully terraformed and hardly a paradise for anyone.



***The Hunger Games* by Suzanne Collins**

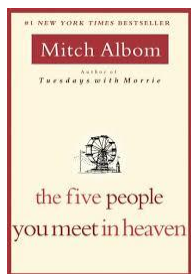
The Hunger Games details the adventure of Katniss Everdeen, who is forced to engage in a fight-to-the-death tournament against other children. The novel takes place in Panem, a dystopian country built on what was once North America. In a world of limited resources, the despotic government run by the Capitol keeps its citizens in line by separating them into Districts and reinforcing severe class separations. But their strongest tool to promote disunion and to discourage rebellion is the Hunger Games: a yearly event where two tributes from each district are pitted against each other for the country to watch on television.

Fantasy:



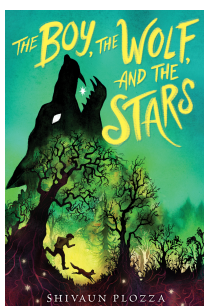
***Eragon* by Christopher Paolini**

In Alagaesia, a fifteen-year-old boy of unknown lineage called Eragon finds a mysterious stone that weaves his life into an intricate tapestry of destiny, magic, and power, populated with dragons, elves, and monsters.



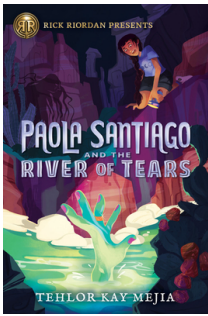
***The Five People You Meet in Heaven* by Mitch Albom**

Eddie is a wounded war veteran, an old man who has lived, in his mind, an uninspired life. His job is fixing rides at a seaside amusement park. On his 83rd birthday, a tragic accident kills him, as he tries to save a little girl from a falling cart. He awakes in the afterlife, where he learns that heaven is not a destination. It's a place where your life is explained to you by five people, some of whom you knew, others who may have been strangers.



***The Boy, the Wolf and the Stars* by Shivaun Plozza**

A boy and his pet fox go on a quest to find a wolf who has eaten all the stars in the sky before the Shadow Witch destroys the stars and removes good magic from the world forever.



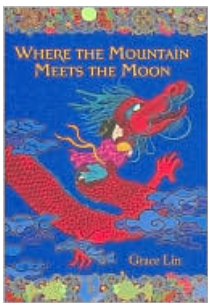
***Paola Santiago and the River of Tears* by Tehlor Kay Mejia**

When her friend Emma vanishes near the banks of Silver Spring, Ariz.'s Gila **River**, a place forbidden to **Paola** because of its history of mysterious disappearances, she and friend Dante investigate, only to be sucked into a realm where monsters out of her mother's stories stalk them.



***Tristan Strong Punches a Hole in the Sky* by Kwame Mbalia**

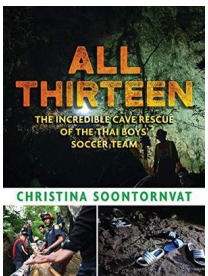
Tristan Strong is a seventh grade boy, forced into boxing by his parents, mourning the death of his best friend Eddie, who died in a terrible bus crash. Eddie has left Tristan his journal, but survivor's guilt stops Tristan from reading it.



***Where the Mountain Meets the Moon* by Grace Lin**

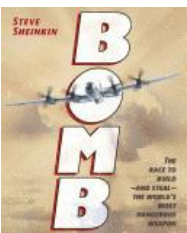
In the valley of Fruitless mountain, a young girl named Minli lives in a ramshackle hut with her parents. In the evenings, her father regales her with old folktales of the Jade Dragon and the Old Man of the Moon, who knows the answers to all of life's questions.

Non-fiction:



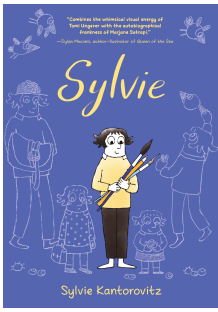
***All Thirteen* by Christina Soontornvat**

Twelve young players of the Wild Boars soccer team and their coach head into a local cave after practice. They plan to spend only an hour or two exploring, but outside, rain has begun pouring down, and when they turn to leave, rising floodwaters block their path out. The boys are trapped.



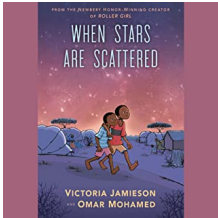
***Bomb* by Steve Sheinkin**

Bomb examines the history of the atomic bomb, discussing the discovery of the behavior of uranium when placed next to radioactive material, the race to build a bomb, and the impact of the weapon on societies around the world.



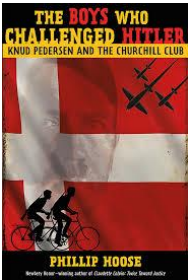
Sylvie by Sylvie Kantorovitz

Sylvie lives in a school in France. Her father is the principal, and her home is an apartment at the end of a hallway of classrooms. As a young child, Sylvie and her brother explore this most unusual kingdom, full of small mysteries and quirky surprises. But in middle and high school, life grows more complicated. Sylvie becomes aware of her parents' conflicts, the complexities of shifting friendships, and what it means to be the only Jewish family in town. She also begins to sense that her perceived "success" relies on the pursuit of math and science—even though she loves art.



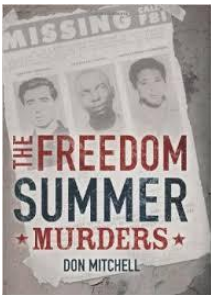
When Stars are Scattered by Victoria Jamieson and Omar Mohamed

Omar and his younger brother, Hassan, have spent most of their lives in Dadaab, a refugee camp in Kenya. Life is hard there: never enough food, achingly dull, and without access to the medical care Omar knows his nonverbal brother needs. So when Omar has the opportunity to go to school, he knows it might be a chance to change their future . . . but it would also mean leaving his brother, the only family member he has left, every day.



The Boys Who Challenged Hitler by Phillip Hoose

A group of Danish middle school boys, led by 15-year-old Knud Pedersen, decided to resist German occupation in Denmark despite the government's acceptance. Like soldiers, they were determined and disciplined, being careful not to blow their cover.



The Freedom Summer Murders by Don Mitchell

In June of 1964, three idealistic young men (one black and two white) were lynched by the Ku Klux Klan in Mississippi. They were trying to register African Americans to vote as part of the Freedom Summer effort to bring democracy to the South. Their disappearance and murder caused a national uproar and was one of the most significant incidents of the Civil Rights Movement, and contributed to the passage of the Civil Rights Act of 1964.

Grade Level Specific Recommendations

7th grade



8th grade



Additional Summer Reading for Honors Students

Back-to-School Activity

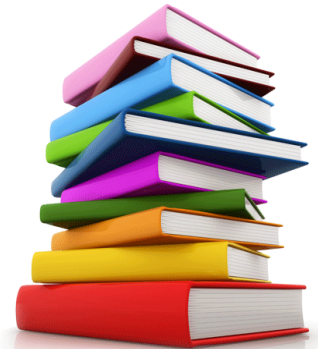
All honors students are expected to read at least one book from the following list. Students are not required to submit a written assignment upon their return to school in the fall. However, you will be asked to discuss and write about what you read.

As you read, consider:

How do literary elements (setting, mood, etc.) interrelate? How does the character's personality evolve or change over time? How are themes developed? What are important events that contribute to the plot? You may wish to take notes or keep a reading journal. If the book is yours, you may want to highlight or use sticky notes to emphasize important or interesting parts.

Incoming 7th Grade Students

- *A Wizard of Earthsea: The Earthsea Cycle, Book 1* by Ursula Le Guin
- *Chains* by Laurie Halse Anderson
- *Rising Above* by Gregory Zuckerman
- *The Lion of Mars*, by Jennifer Holm
- *The Red Pencil* by Andrea Davis Pinkney
- *The Wednesday Wars* by Gary D Schmidt



Incoming 8th Grade Students

- *Everything Sad is Untrue (a true story)* by Daniel Nayeri
- *How Dare the Sun Rise* by Sandra Uwiringiyimana
- *No Better Friend: A Man, a Dog, and Their Incredible True Story of Friendship and Survival in World War II*, by Robert Weintraub
- *The Girl in the Blue Coat*, by Monica Hesse
- *The House of the Scorpion*, by Nancy Farmer
- *Unbroken* (adapted for young adults version) by Laura Hillenbrand

*****BOOK CHALLENGE***** *Can you read all of the honors books in your grade level?*



Before you leave for the summer, it's a good idea to have some titles of books in mind that you might enjoy reading. On the lines below, list the **titles and authors** of three books that you will explore as your summer reading options. You can select the titles from the attached list of suggested books, get a recommendation from a friend, or browse the bookstore or library. Remember, you don't need to stick with any of the books you write down. If a book is too difficult, or doesn't interest you, try a different one. The important thing is that you enjoy what you read!

Title and author 1: _____

Title and author 2: _____

Title and author 3: _____

Summer is a great time to challenge yourself to do something you may not have done before. Choose from the list of goals below and put a check next to what you want to be able to complete. You can make it a goal to read a certain number of books, or pages. You may check more than one (but check at least one).

_____ I will complete one book.

_____ I will complete _____ books.

_____ I will read _____ pages.

Student's Signature: _____

Parents/Guardians: Please review the summer reading program with your child and sign below. If you have any questions, feel free to write them in the space provided.

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____