



## 2019 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Summer Reading Program

Dear Parents and Students,

Summer is a wonderful time to enjoy reading! This summer, incoming 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> 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"> <li>-Foster a love of reading</li> <li>-Advance literacy by engaging in reading activities</li> <li>-Increase reading through self-selected, voluntary reading</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Enhance a sense of community</li> <li>-Provide a common reading experience</li> <li>-Stimulate discussion and critical thinking</li> </ul>

### *Reflect on Yourself as a Reader*

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

**GOAL:** 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.

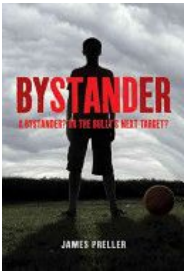
As you read, consider: *How do literary elements (setting, mood, etc.) interrelate? How does the character's personality evolve or change over time? How are themes developed? What are important events that contribute to the plot?* You may wish to take notes or keep a reading journal. If the book is yours,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

### 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:



#### **Bystander by James Preller**

Thirteen-year-old Eric discovers there are consequences to not standing by and watching as the bully at his new school hurts people, but although school officials are aware of the problem, Eric may be the one with a solution.



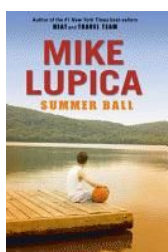
#### **Flipped by Wendelin Van Draanen**

In alternating chapters, two teenagers describe how their feelings about themselves, each other, and their families have changed over the years.



#### **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.



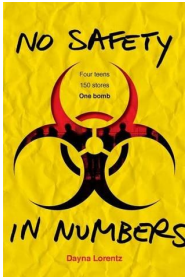
#### **Summer Ball by Mike Lupica**

Thirteen-year-old Danny must prove himself all over again for a disapproving coach and against new rivals at a summer basketball camp.



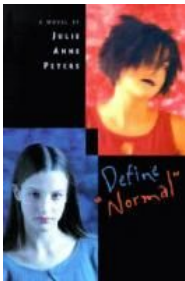
### **Stargirl by Jerry Spinelli**

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.



### **No Safety in Numbers by Dayna Lorentz**

After a bomb has just been discovered in a busy mall, four different narrators, each with their own stories, must cope in unique, surprising manners, changing in ways they wouldn't have predicted, trying to find solace, safety, and escape at a time when the adults are behaving badly.



### **Define "Normal" by Julie Anne Peters**

When she agrees to meet with Jasmine as a peer counselor at their middle school, Antonia never dreams that this girl with the black lipsticked lips and pierced eyebrow will end up helping her deal with the serious problems she faced at home and become a good friend.



### **To All the Boys I've Loved Before by Jenny Han**

In this lovely, lighthearted romance, high school junior Lara Jean writes never-to-be-mailed letters to every boy she's ever liked. The teen falls for Josh, the boy next door. The catch: he's her older sister's very recent ex-boyfriend. But when her letters are accidentally sent out, the protagonist is desperate to convince Josh that she's over her crush.



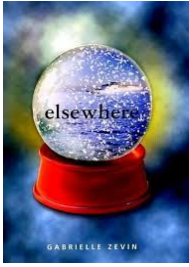
### **Touching Spirit Bear by Ben Mikaelson**

After severely injuring Peter Driscoll in an empty parking lot, mischief-maker Cole Matthews is in major trouble. But instead of jail time, Cole is given an alternative: a one-year banishment to a remote Alaskan island. This program—called Circle Justice—is based on Native American traditions that provide healing for the criminal mind. To avoid serious jail time, Cole resolves to go.



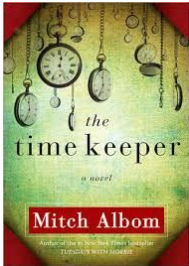
### **Egghead by Caroline Pignat**

Will Reid is a gawky kid who wears fake turtlenecks, is obsessed by his ant farm project, and is lousy at gym. In other words, he's the perfect target for Shane, the Grade 9 bully. Katie has been Will's friend in elementary school, but defending him in the high school environment comes at an unforeseen cost -



### ***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.



### ***The Timekeeper* by Mitch Albom**

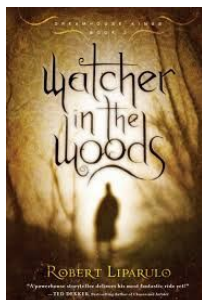
In Mitch Albom's exceptional work of fiction, the inventor of the world's first clock is punished for trying to measure God's greatest gift. He is banished to a cave for centuries and forced to listen to the voices of all who come after him seeking more days, more years. Eventually, with his soul nearly broken, Father Time is granted his freedom, along with a magical hourglass and a mission: a chance to redeem himself by teaching two earthly people the true meaning of time.



### ***The Girl Who Loved Tom Gordon* by Stephen King**

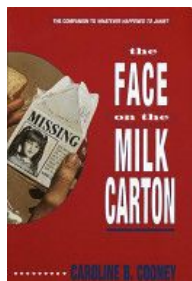
Tired of the continual bickering between her mother and her older brother, nine-year-old Trisha lags behind them on the Appalachian Trail, leaves the path to go to the bathroom, takes a shortcut, and is promptly lost. She follows a stream searching for other people or a road, but unknowingly hikes further and further away from civilization. Her time alone is spent searching for food, mulling over her parents' divorce, and listening to Red Sox games on her Walkman radio. Relief pitcher for the Sox, Tom Gordon, becomes her imaginary companion and provides the comfort she needs to overcome her fears and loneliness so that she can concentrate on staying alive. One feels Trisha's terror as she endures drenching thunderstorms, tromps through mud-sucking swamps, sees gutted deer carcasses, and falls down rocky slopes. Will she survive?

## Mystery:



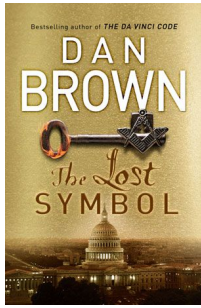
### ***Watcher in the Woods* by Robert Liparulo**

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?



### ***The Face on the Milk Carton* by Caroline B. Cooney**

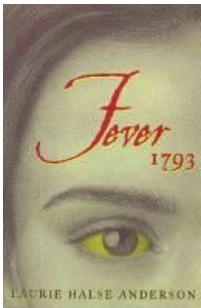
A photograph of a missing girl leads Janie on a search for her real identity.



### ***The Lost Symbol* by Dan Brown**

As a follow-up to the popular *The Da Vinci Code*, famed symbolist Robert Langdon finds himself in a deadly race in a real-world labyrinth of codes, secrets, and unseen truths... all under the watchful eye of Brown's most terrifying villain to date. This exciting novel is set within the hidden chambers, tunnels, and temples of Washington D.C..

## Historical Fiction:



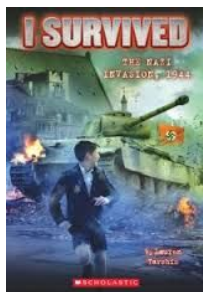
### ***Fever, 1793* by Laurie Halse Anderson**

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.



### ***The Boy Who Dared* by Susan Campbell Bartoletti**

In October, 1942, seventeen-year-old Helmuth Hubener, imprisoned for disturbing anti-Nazi leaflets, recalls his past life and how he came to dedicate himself to bring the truth about Hitler and the war to the German people.



### ***I Survived the Nazi Invasion, 1944* by Lauren Tarshis**

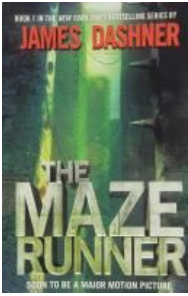
A young Jewish boy escapes the ghetto and finds a group of resistance fighters in the forests of Poland, and he must determine if he has what it takes to survive the Nazis and fight back.

## Science Fiction:



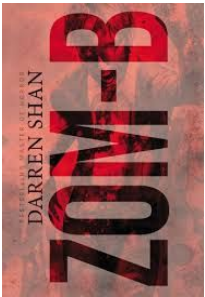
### ***Gone* by Michael Grant**

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...



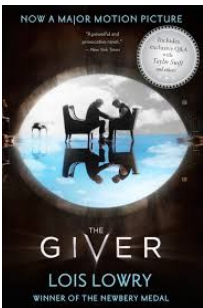
***The Maze Runner* by James Dashner**

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**

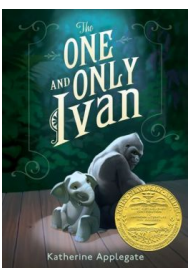
B Smith (gender not revealed until the end) is a punk, a bully, and a thug, easily falling into the trap of racism because of an overbearing father. B silently questions that ignorance but ultimately finds it easier, and safer, to conform to Dad's ideals rather than take a stand, as well as another beating. 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.



***The Giver* by Lois Lowry**

*The Giver*, the 1994 Newbery Medal winner, has become one of the most influential novels of our time. The haunting story centers on twelve-year-old Jonas, who lives in a seemingly ideal, if colorless, world of conformity and contentment. Not until he is given his life assignment as the Receiver of Memory does he begin to understand the dark, complex secrets behind his fragile community.

**Fantasy:**



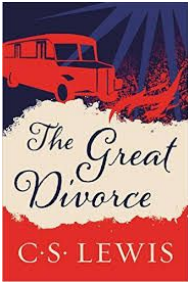
***The One and Only Ivan* by Katherine Applegate**

Inspired by the true story of a captive gorilla known as Ivan, this illustrated novel is told from the point of view of Ivan himself. After spending twenty-seven years behind the glass walls of his enclosure in a shopping mall, Ivan has grown accustomed to humans watching him. But when he meets Rudy, a baby elephant taken from the wild, he is forced to see their home, and his art, through new eyes.



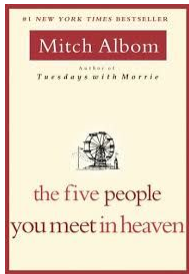
***Eragon* by Christopher Paolini**

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, peopled with dragons, elves, and monsters.



### ***The Great Divorce* by C.S. Lewis**

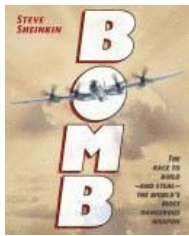
*The Great Divorce* is a classic Christian allegorical tale about a bus ride from hell to heaven. An extraordinary meditation upon good and evil, grace and judgment, Lewis's revolutionary idea in the *The Great Divorce* is that the gates of Hell are locked from the inside.



### ***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.

## Non-fiction:



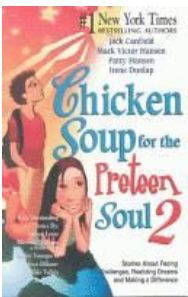
### ***Bomb* by Steve Sheinkin**

*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.



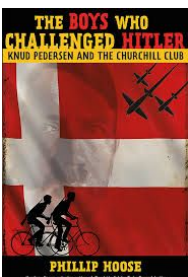
### ***The Port Chicago 50* by Steve Sheinkin**

*The Port Chicago 50* describes the fifty black sailors who refused to work in unsafe conditions after an explosion in Port Chicago killed 320 servicemen, and how the incident influenced civil rights.



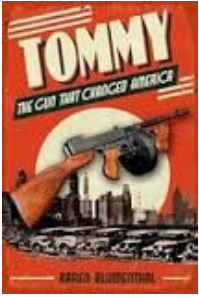
### ***Chicken Soup for the Preteen Soul 2* by Jack Canfield, Mark Victor & Patty Hansen**

A collection of more than one hundred stories, poems, and other writings presented to inspire and comfort children ages 9-13.



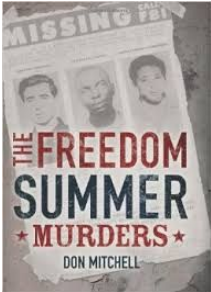
### ***The Boys Who Challenged Hitler* by Phillip Hoose**

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.



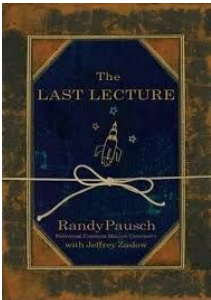
***Tommy: The Gun That Changed America* by Karen Blumenthal**

John Taliaferro Thompson had a mission: to develop a lightweight, fast-firing weapon that would help Americans win on the battlefield. His Thompson submachine gun could deliver a hundred bullets in a matter of seconds—but didn't find a market in the U.S. military. Instead, the Tommy gun became the weapon of choice for a generation of bootleggers and bank-robbing outlaws, and became a deadly American icon.



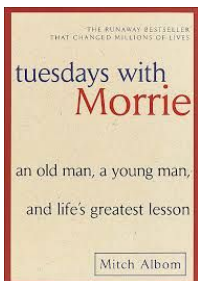
***The Freedom Summer Murders* by Don Mitchell**

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.



***The Last Lecture* by Randy Pausch**

When Randy Pausch, a computer science professor at Carnegie Mellon, was asked to give such a lecture, he didn't have to imagine it as his last, since he had recently been diagnosed with terminal cancer. But the lecture he gave--"Really Achieving Your Childhood Dreams"--wasn't about dying. It was about the importance of overcoming obstacles, of enabling the dreams of others, of seizing every moment (because "time is all you have...and you may find one day that you have less than you think"). It was a summation of everything Randy had come to believe. It was about living.



***Tuesdays With Morrie* by Mitch Albom**

A Detroit Free Press journalist and best-selling author recounts his weekly visits with a dying teacher who years before had set him straight.





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: \_\_\_\_\_

Questions?

# Additional Summer Reading for Honors Students

All honors students are expected to read one book from the following list:

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## Incoming 7th Grade Students

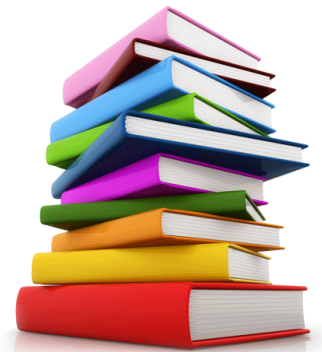
*Chains* by Laurie Halse Anderson

*The Boys in the Boat* (Young Reader's Adaptation) by Daniel James Brown

*The Red Pencil* by Andrea Davis Pinkney

*Full Cicada Moon* by Marilyn Hilton

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## Incoming 8th Grade Students

*Brown Girl Dreaming* by Jacqueline Woodson

*Unbroken* (adapted for young adults version) by Laura Hillenbrand

*How Dare the Sun Rise* by Sandra Uwiringiyimana

*Code of Honor* by Alan Gratz

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