

SUMMER READING – BOOK SUGGESTIONS

For those students entering 8th Grade

As you know, reading daily has become an integral part of our Middle School Philosophy. It is for this reason that we are requiring your child to read AT LEAST 2 novels over the course of the summer vacation. The following is a list of reading *suggestions*. It includes both fiction and non-fiction selections. Your child has become familiar with the kinds of books he/she enjoys reading and we are confident they will continue to do so over the summer months. Students are used to reading every day, so this should not be much of an obstacle. Students may read more than two books depending on how quickly or how much they read. We certainly challenge them to do so! Students should read regularly and mark the amount of time spent reading on the attached calendars. Students are also required to complete a book critique essay before returning to school in September.

Fiction Summer Reading Suggestions

The Sisterhood of the Traveling Pants – by Ann Brashares

Over the summer, four friends share a second-hand pair of jeans (which happen to fit each one of them perfectly) and discover happiness, and all the complication of growing up.

The Secret Garden – Frances Hodgson Burnett

Ten-year-old Mary, after the death of her parents, comes to live in a lonely house on the Yorkshire moors. Soon, she discovers an invalid cousin, a charming new friend, and the mysteries of a locked garden.

Hoot – Carl Hiaasen

Roy, who is new to his small Florida community, becomes involved in another boy's attempt to save a colony of burrowing owls from a proposed construction site - perfect for the nature lover in your family.

Alice in Wonderland – Lewis Carroll

A little girl falls down a rabbit hole and discovers a world of nonsensical and amusing characters. This beloved novel has inspired countless television and movie productions. For the original story, characters, and magic, Lewis Carroll's popular tale is a must-read for all readers—it is nothing like the movie.

The Lord of the Rings, Fellowship of the Ring – J.R.R. Tolkien

The first volume of a three-volume epic adventure set in the fantasy world of the Third Age of Middle-earth, a world inhabited by Hobbits, Elves, Dwarves, and Humans. Follow Frodo, as he and the Fellowship, attempt to defeat the Dark Lord, Saruman.

The Lord of the Rings, The Two Towers – J.R.R. Tolkien

In this second volume of Tolkien's epic fantasy, Frodo and his servant Sam Gamgee make their way eastward with the Ring while Frodo's companions are in danger from the traitor Saruman.

The Lord of the Rings, The Return of the King – J.R.R. Tolkien

As the Shadow of Mordor grows, the companions find their way through danger and mystery as they defeat the Dark Lord and celebrate Aragorn's ascent to become King of the West.

The Hobbit – J.R.R. Tolkien

The prequel for the Lord of the Rings series. See where it all began. Bilbo Baggins, a respectable hobbit, shares a fantastic adventure with a wandering wizard, as he comes into possession of a mystical ring.

The Outsiders– S.E. Hinton –

Three brothers struggle to stay together after their parents' death, as they search for an identity among the conflicting values of their adolescent society.

The Lightning Thief – Rick Riordan

Troubled student Percy Jackson vaporizes his math teacher on a class field trip and he begins to suspect that his life is not what it seems. He discovers that his lifelong reading and attention troubles are all signs that he is a half-blood—a child of the Greek gods. After a summer training session with other demigods and Chiron the centaur, he sets off on a cross-country quest to Los Angeles to recover Zeus' lost thunderbolt and stop a war between the gods.

The Sea of Monsters – Rick Riordan

In this second installment in the series, Percy, Poseidon's 13-year-old demigod son, is desperate to rescue his friend Grover, captive of the bloodthirsty Cyclops Polyphemus, and to retrieve the healing Golden Fleece. The sheepskin is needed to restore the protection around Camp Half-Blood, the only safe haven for the children of gods and humans, heroes-in-training in our modern world.

The Titan's Curse – Rick Riordan

In this installment, Riordan continues to enliven ancient mythology with wit, contemporary staging, and teenage heroics. Percy Jackson is now 14, a bit older and wiser, yet still entangled with the Fates. Friends, monsters, dysfunctional gods, and the romantic stirrings of all things natural and mythological are encountered.

The Hunger Games series – Suzanne Collins

By winning the annual Hunger Games, District 12 tributes Katniss Everdeen and Peeta Mellark have secured a life of safety and plenty for themselves and their families, but because they won by defying the rules, they unwittingly become the faces of an impending rebellion. Books include The Hunger Games, Catching Fire, and Mocking Jay.

Tangerine - Edward Bloor

Twelve-year-old Paul, who lives in the shadow of his football hero brother Erik, fights for the right to play soccer despite his near blindness and slowly begins to remember the incident that damaged his eyesight.

Walk Two Moons – Sharon Creech

After her mother leaves home suddenly, thirteen-year-old Sal and her grandparents take a car trip retracing her mother's route. Along the way, Sal recounts the story of her friend Phoebe, whose mother also left.

Mind's Eye - Paul Fleischman

A novel in play form in which sixteen-year-old Courtney, paralyzed in an accident, learns about the power of the mind from an elderly blind woman who takes Courtney on an imaginary journey to Italy using a 1910 guidebook.

Small Steps – Louis Sachar

Three years after being released from Camp Green Lake, Armpit is trying hard to keep his life on track, but when his old pal X-Ray shows up with a tempting plan to make some easy money scalping concert tickets, Armpit reluctantly goes along. This is the accompanying novel to Holes.

The Notebook – Nicholas Sparks

Noah Calhoun, recently returned from World War II in 1946, buys an old plantation home in rural North Carolina, where he contents himself with memories of his first love, a girl he met fourteen years earlier, but then she unexpectedly arrives at his door.

The Last Song – Nicholas Sparks

Seventeen year old Veronica "Ronnie" Miller's life was turned upside-down when her parents divorced and her father moved from New York City to Wrightsville Beach, North Carolina. Three years later, she remains angry and alienated from her parents, especially her father...until her mother decides it would be in everyone's best interest if she spent the summer in Wilmington with him.

Dear John – Nicholas Sparks

John Tyree, home on leave from the Army, meets Savannah Curtis, an upper class, straight-laced college student working with Habitat for Humanity in North Carolina, and although their values conflict, the attraction remains strong until the 2001 terrorist attacks on the U.S. prompt John to re-enlist.

The Giver Series – Lois Lowry

Set in a society which as at first presented at Utopian is gradually revealed to be more and more dystopian. Books include The Giver, Gathering Blue, Messenger, Son.

To Kill a Mockingbird – Harper Lee

Scout and Jem Finch discover the honest irrationality of adult attitudes toward race and class in the Deep South of the 1930s. The conscience of a town steeped in prejudice, violence, and hypocrisy is pricked by the stamina and quiet heroism of one man's struggle for justice—but the weight of history will only tolerate so much.

The Call of the Wild – Jack London

The adventures of an unusual dog, part St. Bernard, part Scotch shepherd, that is forcibly taken to the Klondike gold fields where he eventually becomes the leader of a wolf pack.

Maximum Ride: The Angel Experiment – James Patterson

After the mutant Erasers abduct the youngest member of their group, the "birdkids," who are the result of genetic experimentation, take off in pursuit and find themselves struggling to understand their own origins and purpose. Book 1.

The Divergent Series—Veronica Roth

Set within a dystopian version of Chicago this novel has been compared to similar young adult books such as the Hunger Games. Novels included Divergent, Insurgent, and Allegiant.

Prisoner B-3087 -- Alan Gratz, Ruth Gruener, Jack Gruener

The story of a Holocaust prisoner who goes to 10 different Concentration Camps during WWII.

The Book Thief -- Markus Zusak

Liesel Meminger is a foster girl living outside of Munich, who scratches out a meager existence for herself by stealing when she encounters something she can't resist—books. With the help of her accordion-playing foster father, she learns to read and shares her stolen books with her neighbors during bombing raids as well as with the Jewish man hidden in her basement.

Milkweed -- Jerry Spinelli

This is the story set in one of the most devastating settings imaginable—Nazi-occupied Warsaw during World War II—and it tells a tale of heartbreak, hope, and survival through the bright eyes of a young Holocaust orphan in the Ghetto.