

Hi rising 7th grade parents,

This summer we are excited to offer summer reading with both a required text and two choices with some freedom attached to it when it comes to selecting the books.

This summer the REQUIRED TEXT for all students is *Blood on the River* by Elisa Carbone. This novel will help set the foundation as students transition into an American History based Social Studies curriculum in 7th grade.

In addition, there will be two choice reads as well. Having done our homework, we are confident in the power and value of choice reading, especially at the middle school level. Students will spend the school year reading required texts in ELA, so while we hope that they will enjoy those, we find that giving them this opportunity through summer reading is a way to carry a passion for reading over into the school year during daily independent reading time at school and hopefully at home.

The objective is to help students build a lifelong love for reading. I hope to be a model of that in the classroom through my own engagement with other teachers in front of the students as well as in our emphasis on independent reading, having it be a constant in their ever-changing day. Summer reading is meant to keep the students engaged and give them the opportunity to be in the driver's seat (with parameters) of their reading as they enter new worlds or explore new genres.

With all of this being said, having so many choices to choose from can be as daunting as saying you can write anything you'd like, so we want to offer suggestions as well as some parameters:

- Students MUST read one fiction and one nonfiction title
- Books must be considered grade level
- Suggestions of books, series, and authors are listed below

7th grade student favorites over the years:

I Will Always Write Back: How One Letter Changed Two Lives by Caitlin Alifirenka & Martin Ganda (nonfiction)

The War that Saved My Life by Kimberly Bradley (fiction)

Refugee by Alan Gratz (fiction)

Prisoner B-3087 by Alan Gratz (fiction)

The Boy in the Striped Pajamas by John Boyne (fiction)

Out of My Mind by Sharon Draper (fiction)

Drums, Girls, and Dangerous Pie by Jordan Sonnenblick (fiction)

Ghost Boys by Jewell Parker Rhodes

Student & Teacher Approved Series:

Ghost Series by Jason Reynolds (fiction)

The Hunger Games by Suzanne Collins (fiction)

The Maze Runner by James Dashner (fiction)

Magnus Chase and the Gods of Asgard by Rick Riordan (fiction)

Spy School by Stuart Gibbs (fiction)

Archdiocese of Philadelphia Summer Reading Recommendations:

The Red Bandana by Tom Rinaldi (fiction)

Locomotion by Jacqueline Woodson (fiction)

The Book Boy by Catherine Gilbert Murdock (fiction)

Show Me a Sign by Anne Clare LaZotte (fiction)

Finding Gobi: A Little Dog with a Very Big Heart by Dion Leonard (fiction)

The Boys' War: Confederate and Union Soldiers Talk About the Civil War by Jim Murphy (nonfiction)

Other recommendations:

Life in Motion: An Unlikely Ballerina Young Readers edition by Misty Copeland (nonfiction)

One Crazy Summer by Rita Williams-Garcia (fiction)

Hatchet by Gary Paulsen (fiction)

Restart by Gordon Korman (fiction)

Holes by Louis Sachar (fiction)

Echo by Pam Munoz Ryan (fiction)

Hidden Figures by Margot Lee Shetterly (nonfiction)

Orbiting Jupiter by Gary G. Schmidt (fiction)

Novels in verse recommendations:

A Long Way Down by Jason Reynolds (fiction)

House Arrest by K.A. Holt (fiction)

The Crossover by Kwame Alexander (fiction)

Booked by Kwame Alexander (fiction)

Brown Girl Dreaming by Jacqueline Woodson (nonfiction)

Mrs. Sepich's favorite YA authors:

Jayson Reynolds

Kwame Alexander

Angie Thomas

Sharon Draper

Jacqueline Woodson

Alan Gratz

Jerry Spinelli

Judy Blume

I hope that these titles can provide some guidance and that this summer students will enjoy their summer reading selections. In September I look forward to listening to students' opinions and recommendations as to cultivate a master list of student-approved books for them to use throughout the year for independent reading and inspire us as we are always building our classroom libraries. I always hope to be able to witness another September of swapping books with one another based on reviews!

I hope you have a great summer and are able to dive into some good reads yourselves!

Kerri Sepich
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