

Hi rising 8th 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 *Chasing Lincoln's Killeby* James P. Swanson. This novel will help set the foundation for the 8th grade Social Studies curriculum as they look toward the Civil War.

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.

With all of this being said, we want to offer suggestions as well as some parameters:

- Students **MUST** read one fiction book and their third book may be fiction or nonfiction
- Books must be considered grade level
- Suggestions of books, series, and authors are listed below

8th grade student favorites over the years:

The War that Saved My Life by Kimberly Bradley (fiction)
Ground Zero by Alan Gratz (fiction)
The Girl in the Blue Coat by Monica Hesse (fiction)
Night by Elie Wiesel (WWII; nonfiction)
Between Shades of Gray by Ruta Sepetys (fiction)
Drums, Girls, and Dangerous Pie by Jordan Sonnenblick (fiction)
Ghost Boys by Jewell Parker Rhodes (fiction)
Little Women by Louisa May Alcott (fiction)
Miss Peregrine's Home for Peculiar Children by Ransom Riggs (fiction)
Hatchet by Gary Paulsen (fiction)
Hidden Figures by Margot Lee Shetterly (nonfiction)
Orbiting Jupiter by Gary G. Schmidt (fiction)

Reading Olympics Selections for 2021-2022

Ali Cross by James Patterson (fiction)
As Brave as You by Jason Reynolds (fiction)
Notes from a Midnight Drive by Jordan Sonnenblick (fiction)
Stella by Starlight by Sharon M. Draper (fiction)
White Bird, a Wonder Story by RJ Palacio (fiction)
Pineeas Gage: A Gruesome but True Story about Brain Science by John Fleischman (nonfiction)

Archdiocese of Philadelphia Summer Reading Recommendations:

The Red Bandana by Tom Ridaldi (fiction)
The Apothecary by Maile Meloy (fiction)
Endurance Young Readers Edition by Scott Kelly (nonfiction)
Code Girls the True Story of the American Girls Who Broke Code in WWII by Lizz Mundy (WWII nonfiction)
Torpedoed: The True Story of the World War II Sinking of "The Children's Ship" by Helligman (WWII nonfiction)
Resistance by Jennifer Nielsen (WWII fiction)
A Light in the Darkness: Janusz Korczak, His Orphans, and the Holocaust by Albert Marrin (WWII nonfiction)
The Boys' War: Confederate and Union Soldiers Talk About the Civil War by Jim Murphy (nonfiction)

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