

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 *Across Five Aprils* by Irene Hunt.** This novel will help set the foundation for the 8th grade Social Studies curriculum as they look toward the Civil War with Mrs. Britt this fall.

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)

*From Salt to Sea* by Ruta Sepetys

*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 Driver* by Jordan Sonnenblick (fiction)

*Stella by Starlight* by Sharon M. Draper (fiction)

*White Bird, a Wonder Story* by RJ Palacio (fiction)

*Pineas 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)