

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 there will be TWO REQUIRED TEXTS for all students:**

1. ***The Red Bandanna* by Tom Rinaldi.** This book is a story involving 9/11 and will help students gain empathy and understanding as we remember 9/11 during the first full week of school. Students can expect an assignment based on this novel in ELA.
2. ***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 with Mrs. Britt.

**In addition, there will be ONE grade-level appropriate 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.

Our objective is to help students build a lifelong love for reading. We hope to be a model of that in the classroom through our 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, so we want to offer suggestions:

**7th grade student favorites over the years:**

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

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

*Refugee* 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 (fiction)

*Amari and the Night Brothers* by B.B. Alston (fiction)

**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:**

*As Brave as You* by Jason Reynolds

*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)

*Look Both Ways* by Jason Reynolds (fiction)

*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)

We hope that these titles can provide some guidance and that this summer students will *enjoy* their summer reading selection. In September we 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. We always hope to be able to witness another September of swapping books with one another based on reviews!

When we return to school, students can expect to kick off ELA with summer reading assignments designed to unite the class on the whole class novel and show off their novels of choice in order to expose them to other students - and ultimately help students build an independent reading list for the year! Summer reading is expected to be completed BY the first day of school.

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

The 7th Grade ELA Teachers