

Middle School Summer Reading 2020-2021

Ultimately, it is our goal that our students read for pleasure in the summer, while also strengthening their reading fluency, comprehension, and stamina. Summer reading has been shown to help reduce the “summer slide.” It also demonstrates our philosophy that reading is important all year round. In an effort to balance the necessity of summer reading with the goal of fostering a love of reading, we are making the following changes to our Summer Reading Requirements for the 2020-2021 school year:

All 7th grade students will read [*Refugee* by Alan Gratz](#). This novel follows the journey of three young people of different cultural backgrounds and different times in history. It’s real, relatable, and relevant for our students, and will prepare them for discussions throughout the school year.

All 8th grade students will read the Newbery Honor Book [*The Wednesday Wars* by Gary D. Schmidt](#). This is a coming of age novel set during the Vietnam War about a seventh grade protagonist who is convinced his teacher hates him (why else would she make him read Shakespeare?). He learns resilience, hope, and how to stand up for himself. This novel will prepare students for discussions throughout the school year.

While there will be no required study guide or objective summer reading test during the first week back in August, students should come to school prepared to participate in class discussions. These discussions will lead to more authentic ways for students to share their thoughts and ideas about the novels, including but not limited to a graded written assessment.

Additionally, to encourage students to read more, they will be provided a list of additional high interest choice books. We encourage them to read more of their own choices in any genre. Optional projects for these books will be offered for students who would like to earn extra points in English class.

All 7th Grade Classes

Read the required novel

Refugee - Gratz, Alan

Read one or more novels from the following optional list

They Call Me Güero: A Border Kid's Poems- Bowles, David

Full Cicada Moon- Hilton, Marilyn

The Boy Who Harnessed the Wind: Creating Currents of Electricity and Hope - Kamkwamba, William and Mealer, Bryan

Amina's Voice- Khan, Hena

Inside Out and Back Again- Lai, Thanhha

The Red Pencil - Pinkney, Andrea Davis

Long Way Down- Reynolds, Jason

Crash - Spinelli, Jerry

Forget Me Not - Terry, Ellie

House of Purple Cedar - Tingle, Tim

Brown Girl Dreaming- Woodson, Jacqueline

All 8th Grade Classes

Read the required novel

The Wednesday Wars - Schmidt, Gary D.

Read one or more novels from the following optional list

Allen, Kate. *The Line Tender*.

Bowling, Dusti. *Insignificant Events in the Life of a Cactus*.

Bruchac, Joseph *Code Talker: A Novel About the Navajo Marines of World War Two*

Carvell, Marlene *Sweetgrass Basket*

Dimaline, Cherie *The Marrow Thieves*

Gratz, Allan. *Allies*.

Hale, Shannon. *Unbeatable Squirrel Girl: Girl Meets World*.

Hernandez, Carlos. *Sal & Gabi Break the Universe*.

Kristoff, Jay. *Aurora Rising*.

McCaughrean, Geraldine *Where the World Ends*

Messner, Kate *Chirp*

Brown, Daniel James *The Boys in the Boat: Nine Americans and Their Epic Quest for Gold at the 1936 Berlin Olympics*

Reynolds, Jason. *Look Both Ways*.

Reynolds, Jason. *Track Series*.

Saeed, Aishaad. *Amal Unbound*.

Williams, Alicia D. *Genesis Begins Again*.