

2023-2024 MIDDLE SCHOOL SUMMER READING

Dear Middle School Students and Parents:

The Middle School Summer Reading Program encourages a life-long habit of reading. Reading well is fundamental to just about everything we do in school, so we encourage all students to read as much as their schedules and appetites allow. **Students must read a total of three (3) books during summer vacation.** The requirements are as follows:

3 books	ENTERING 6TH GRADE	ENTERING 7TH GRADE	ENTERING 8TH GRADE
<i>Class Book</i>	<i>The Devil's Arithmetic</i> by Jane Yolen	<i>The Westing Game</i> by Ellen Raskin	<i>The Boy on the Wooden Box</i> by Leon Leyson
<i>MS Book List</i>	See Annotated MS Summer Reading List attached (May use for AR points)	See Annotated MS Summer Reading List attached (May use for AR points)	See Annotated MS Summer Reading List attached (May use for AR points)
<i>Free Choice Book</i>	Free Choice	Free Choice	Free Choice

- **Class Book:**

Teachers will expect students to be able to discuss the class books upon their return. We suggest that students take some notes when they read. There will be a test on the Class Book during the first week of school. With this in mind, we suggest that this book be read last - soon before school starts, so that it will be fresh when test time comes..

- **MS Book List Book:**

Students will choose and read a book from the Central Private MS Book List. The annotated version of the MS Book List is attached. In choosing a book from the list, students are encouraged to talk to friends, parents, and librarians to ensure a challenging and enjoyable read that expands their reading horizons.

- **Free Choice Book:** Students will read one (1) book chosen independently. There are no restrictions except the approval of the student's parents. The spirit here is to simply read for fun.

***6TH GRADE:** Students are still required to earn 10 AR points for Summer Reading before returning to school in the fall. Students may take tests on their Book List book, Free Choice Book, or any novel above a 4.5 Reading Level.

***7TH GRADE:** Students are still required to earn 12 AR points for Summer Reading before returning to school in the fall. Students may take tests on their Book List book, Free Choice Book, or any novel above a 4.7 Reading Level.

***8TH GRADE:** Students are still required to earn 15 AR points for Summer Reading before returning to school in the fall. Students may take tests on their Book List book, Free Choice Book, or any novel above a 4.8 Reading Level.

*****STUDENTS CANNOT TAKE AN AR TEST ON THEIR CLASS BOOK*****

SUMMER TESTING DATES:

9:00 -12:00

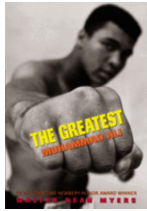
July 5

July 26

HS Library

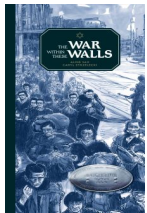
Annotated MS Summer Reading List

Biography



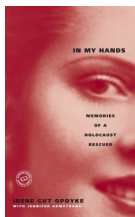
The Greatest: Muhammad Ali by Walter Dean Myers

A riveting portrayal of Ali, his spirit and courage, from childhood to the present, as well as the hazards of boxing--the sport which he loved, but which ultimately damaged him. (2001)



The War Within These Walls by Aline Sax

It's World War II, and Jews living in Warsaw have been moved by the Nazis into a single crowded ghetto. Conditions are appalling. As things worsen, Mordechai Anielewicz enlists a handful of young men and women to make a final, desperate stand against the Nazis. Heavily illustrated with sober blue-and-white drawings, this powerful novel dramatically captures the brutal reality of a tragic historical event. (2011)



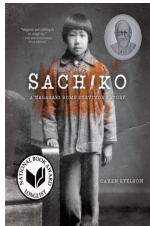
In My Hands: Memories of a Holocaust Rescuer by Irene Gut Opdyke

Through this intimate and compelling memoir, we are witness to the growth of a hero. Irene Gut was just a girl when the war began: seventeen, a Polish patriot, a student nurse, a good Catholic girl. As the war progressed, the soldiers of two countries stripped her of all she loved -- her family, her home, her innocence -- but the degradations only strengthened her will.



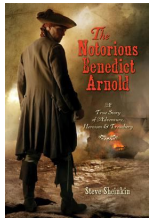
Farewell to Manzanar by Jeanne Wakatsuki Houston

Farewell to Manzanar is the true story of one spirited Japanese-American family's attempt to survive the indignities of forced detention—and of a native-born American child who discovered what it was like to grow up behind barbed wire in the United States.



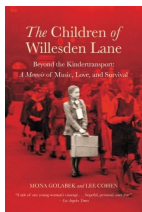
Sachiko by Caren Stelson

This striking work of narrative nonfiction tells the true story of six-year-old Sachiko Yasui's survival of the Nagasaki atomic bomb on August 9, 1945, and the heartbreaking and lifelong aftermath. Having conducted extensive interviews with Sachiko Yasui, Caren Stelson chronicles Sachiko's trauma and loss as well as her long journey to find peace. This book offers readers a remarkable new perspective on the final moments of World War II and their aftermath.



The Notorious Benedict Arnold by Steve Sheinkin

Most people know that Benedict Arnold was America's first, most notorious traitor. Few know that he was also one of its greatest war heroes. This accessible biography introduces young readers to the real Arnold: reckless, heroic, and driven. Packed with first-person accounts, astonishing battle scenes, and surprising twists, this is a gripping and true adventure tale.



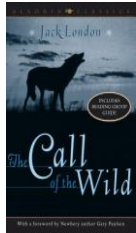
The Children of Willesden Lane by Mona Golabek and Lee Cohen

Based on the true story of her mother, Mona Golabek describes the inspirational story of Lisa Jura's escape from Nazi-controlled Austria to England on the famed Kindertransport.

Jewish musical prodigy Lisa Jura has a wonderful life in Vienna. But when the Nazis start closing in on the city, life changes irreversibly. Although he has three daughters, Lisa's father is only able to secure one berth on the Kindertransport. The family decides to send Lisa to London so that she may pursue her dreams of a career as a

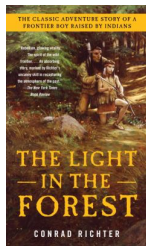
concert pianist. Separated from her beloved family, Lisa bravely endures the trip and a disastrous posting outside London before finding her way to the Willesden Lane Orphanage.

Classics



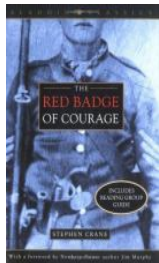
The Call of the Wild by Jack London

Life is good for Buck in Santa Clara Valley, where he spends his days eating and sleeping in the golden sunshine. But one day a treacherous act of betrayal leads to his kidnap, and he is forced into a life of toil and danger. Dragged away to be a sledge dog in the harsh and freezing cold Yukon, Buck must fight for his survival. Can he rise above his enemies and become the master of his realm once again?



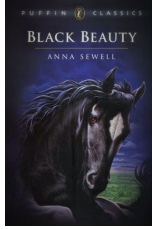
The Light in the Forest by Conrad Richter

A white boy, captured by Indians as a four-year-old, comes to understand and love the Indian culture over his own. (1953)



The Red Badge of Courage by Stephen Crane

Henry Fleming has joined the Union army because of his romantic ideas of military life, but soon finds himself in the middle of a battle against a regiment of Confederate soldiers. Terrified, Henry deserts his comrades. Upon returning to his regiment, he struggles with his shame as he tries to redeem himself and prove his courage.



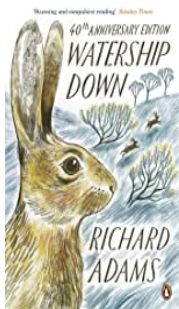
Black Beauty by Anne Sewell

Black Beauty is a handsome, sweet-tempered colt with a strong spirit. When his owners are forced to sell him, Black Beauty goes from a life of comfort and kindness to one of hard labour and cruelty. Black Beauty soon learns how unpredictable life can be with man as his master.



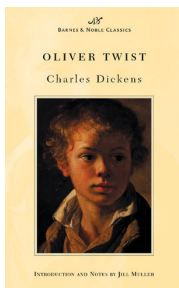
A Wrinkle in Time by Madeleine L'Engle

Meg Murry, her brother, Charles Wallace, along with their neighbor, Calvin O'Keefe, travel through time and space to find their scientist father and battle a growing cosmic evil.



Watership Down by Richard Adams

Set in England's Downs, a once idyllic rural landscape, this stirring tale of adventure, courage and survival follows a band of very special creatures on their flight from the intrusion of man and the certain destruction of their home. Led by a stouthearted pair of friends, they journey forth from their native Sandleford Warren through the harrowing trials posed by predators and adversaries, to a mysterious promised land and a more perfect society.



Oliver Twist by Charles Dickens

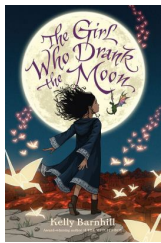
Oliver is an orphan living on the dangerous London streets with no one but himself to rely on. Fleeing from poverty and hardship, he falls in with a criminal street gang who will not let him go, however hard he tries to escape.



Where the Red Fern Grows by Wilson Rawls

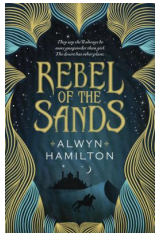
Ten-year-old Bill lovingly raises two redbone hounds, Old Dan and Little Ann, to be champion raccoon hunters in the Ozark mountains, but must come to terms with the greater forces of the wilderness.

Fantasy/Adventure



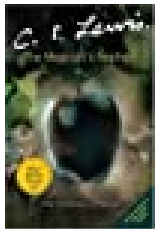
The Girl Who Drank the Moon by Kelly Barnhill

Every year, the people of the Protectorate leave a baby as an offering to the witch who lives in the forest. But the witch in the Forest, Xan, is kind. One year, Xan accidentally feeds a baby moonlight instead of starlight, filling the ordinary child with extraordinary magic. Xan decides she must raise this girl, whom she calls Luna, as her own. As Luna's thirteenth birthday approaches, her magic begins to emerge--with dangerous consequences.



Rebel of the Sands by Alwyn Hamilton

Mortals rule the desert nation of Miraji, but mythical beasts still roam the wild and remote areas, and rumor has it that somewhere, djinn still perform their magic. Amani Al'Hiza is[...] a gifted gunslinger with perfect aim, but she can't shoot her way out of Dustwalk, the back-country town where she's destined to wind up wed or dead. Then she meets Jin, a rakish foreigner, in a shooting contest, and sees him as the perfect escape route. (2016)



The Magician's Nephew (Chronicles of Narnia #6) by C.S. Lewis

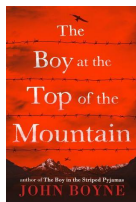
Digory and Polly meet and become friends one cold, wet summer in London. Their lives burst into adventure when Digory's Uncle Andrew, who thinks he is a magician, sends them hurtling to...somewhere else. They find their way to Narnia, newborn from the Lion's song, and encounter the evil sorceress Jadis before they finally return home.



Six of Crows (Six of Crows #1) by Leigh Bardugo

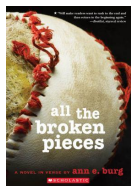
Kaz Brekker is offered a chance at a deadly heist that could make him rich beyond his wildest dreams. But he can't pull it off alone... Six dangerous outcasts. One impossible heist. Kaz's crew is the only thing that might stand between the world and destruction--if they don't kill each other first. (2015)

Historical Fiction



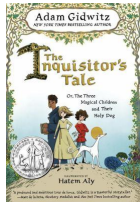
The Boy at the Top of the Mountain by John Boyne

When Pierrot becomes an orphan, he must leave his home in Paris for a new life with his Aunt Beatrix, a servant in a wealthy household at the top of the German mountains. But this is no ordinary time, for it is 1935 and the Second World War is fast approaching; and this is no ordinary house, for this is the Berghof, the home of Adolf Hitler.



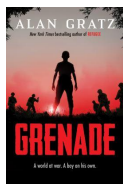
All the Broken Pieces by Ann E. Burg

Matt Pin would like to forget: war torn Vietnam, bombs that fell like dead crows, and the terrible secret he left behind. But now that he is living with a caring adoptive family in the United States, he finds himself forced to confront his past. And that means choosing between silence and candor, blame and forgiveness, fear and freedom. (VERSE)



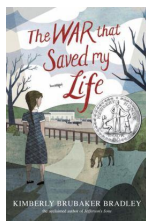
The Inquisitor's Tale by Adam Gidwitz

On a dark night, travelers from across France cross paths at an inn and begin to tell stories of three children. Their adventures take them on a chase through France: they are taken captive by knights, sit alongside a king, and save the land from a farting dragon. On the run to escape prejudice and persecution and save precious and holy texts from being burned, their quest drives them forward to a final showdown at Mont Saint-Michel, where all will come to question if these children can perform the miracles of saints. A 2017 Newbery Honor Book. (2016)



Grenade by Alan Glatz

It's 1944 and the world is at war. Hideki lives peacefully with his family on the island of Okinawa, near Japan. Until the day WWII reaches their door. Hideki is drafted into the "Blood and Iron Imperial Corps" to fight for the Japanese army. He is handed two grenades and a set of instructions: go off into the jungle, and don't come back until you've killed an American soldier. (2018)



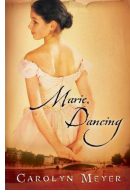
The War that Saved my Life by Kimberly Brubaker Bradley

Ten-year-old Ada has never left her one-room apartment. Her mother is too humiliated by Ada's twisted foot to let her outside. So when her little brother Jamie is shipped out of London to escape World War II, Ada doesn't waste a minute--she sneaks out to join him. So begins a new adventure for Ada, and for Susan Smith, the woman who is forced to take the two kids in. As Ada teaches herself to ride a pony, learns to read, and watches for German spies, she begins to trust Susan--and Susan begins to love Ada and Jamie. But in the end, will their bond be enough to hold them together through wartime? Or will Ada and her brother fall back into the cruel hands of their mother?



The Librarian of Auschwitz by Antonio Iturbe

Based on the real-life experiences of Auschwitz prisoner, Dita Kraus, this is the incredible story of a girl who risked her life to keep the magic of books alive during the Holocaust. Fourteen-year-old Dita is one of the many imprisoned by the Nazis at Auschwitz. Taken, along with her mother and father, from the Terezín ghetto in Prague, Dita is adjusting to the constant terror that is life in the camp. When Jewish leader Freddy Hirsch asks Dita to take charge of the eight precious volumes the prisoners have managed to sneak past the guards, she agrees. And so Dita becomes the librarian of Auschwitz



Marie, Dancing by Carolyn Meyer

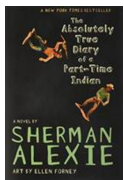
A fictionalized autobiography of Marie Van Goethem, the impoverished student from the Paris Opera ballet school who became the model for Edgar Degas's famous sculpture, "The Little Dancer". (2005)



Shane by Jack Schaefer

The Starrett family's life forever changes when a man named Shane rides out of the great glowing West and up to their farm in 1889. ...But dangerous as Shane may seem, he is a staunch friend to the Starretts—and when a powerful neighboring rancher tries to drive them out of their homestead, Shane becomes entangled in the deadly feud.

Young Adult Fiction



The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian by Sherman Alexie

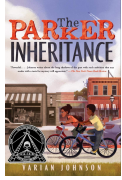
Sherman Alexie tells the story of Junior, a budding cartoonist growing up on the Spokane Indian Reservation. Determined to better himself, Junior leaves his troubled school on the rez to attend an all-white high school where the only other Indian is the school mascot. His story is heartbreaking, funny, and beautifully written, based on the author's own experiences. (2007)

(MATURE/SITUATIONS & LANGUAGE)



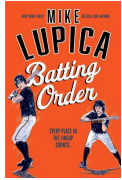
All the Bright Places by Jennifer Niven

In *All the Bright Places*, the first-person narration of Theodore Finch and Violet Markey weaves together a story of their unlikely friendship and love, of saving and being saved in the face of devastating loss.



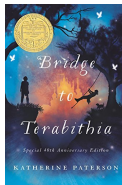
The Parker Inheritance by Varian Johnson

When Candice finds a letter in an old attic in Lambert, South Carolina, she isn't sure she should read it. It's addressed to her grandmother, who left the town in shame. But the letter describes a young woman. An injustice that happened decades ago. A mystery enfolding its writer. And the fortune that awaits the person who solves the puzzle. (2018)



Batting Order by Mike Lupica

On or off the field, Matt and Ben couldn't be more different. The end of the season is fast approaching--is there enough time for Ben to realize bigger isn't always better? For Matt to understand that sometimes, being the bigger person means standing up for yourself? Or will they have to accept defeat? (2019)



Bridge to Terabithia by Katherine Paterson

Jess Aarons has been practicing all summer so he can be the fastest runner in the fifth grade. And he almost is, until the new girl in school, Leslie Burke, outpaces him. The two become fast friends and spend most days in the woods behind Leslie's house, where they invent an enchanted land called Terabithia. One morning, Leslie goes to Terabithia without Jess and a tragedy occurs. It will take the love of his family and the strength that Leslie has given him for Jess to be able to deal with his grief.



The Crossover by Kwame Alexander

With a bolt of lightning on my kicks . . . The court is SIZZLING. My sweat is DRIZZLING. Stop all that quivering. Cuz tonight I'm delivering," announces dread-locked, 12-year old Josh Bell. He and his twin brother Jordan are awesome on the court. But Josh has more than basketball in his blood, he's got mad beats, too, that tell his family's story in verse, in this fast and furious middle grade novel of family and brotherhood.

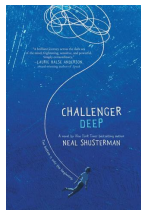
Josh and Jordan must come to grips with growing up on and off the court to realize breaking the rules comes at a terrible price, as their story's heart-stopping climax proves a game-changer for the entire family.



Shades of Simon Gray by Joyce McDonald

Simon Gray is the ideal teenager — smart, reliable, hardworking, trustworthy. Or is he? After Simon crashes his car into The Liberty Tree, another portrait starts to emerge. Soon an investigation has begun into computer hacking at Simon's high school, for it seems tests are being printed out before they are given. Could Simon be involved?

Simon, meanwhile, is in a coma — but is this another appearance that may be deceiving? For inside his own head, Simon can walk around and talk to some people. He even seems to be having a curious conversation with a man who was hung for murder 200 years ago, in the branches of the same tree Simon crashed into. What can a 200-year-old murder have to do with Simon's accident? And how do we know who is really innocent and who is really guilty?



Challenger Deep by Neal Shusterman

Caden Bosch is on a ship that's headed for the deepest point on Earth: Challenger Deep, the southern part of the Marianas Trench.

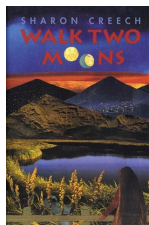
Caden Bosch is a brilliant high school student whose friends are starting to notice his odd behavior.

Caden Bosch is designated the ship's artist in residence to document the journey with images.

Caden Bosch pretends to join the school track team but spends his days walking for miles, absorbed by the thoughts in his head.

Caden Bosch is split between his allegiance to the captain and the allure of mutiny.

Caden Bosch is torn.



Walk Two Moons by Sharon Creech

As Sal entertains her grandparents with Phoebe's outrageous story, her own story begins to unfold — the story of a thirteen-year-old girl whose only wish is to be reunited with her missing mother.

In her own award-winning style, Sharon Creech intricately weaves together two tales, one funny, one bittersweet, to create a heartwarming, compelling, and utterly moving story of love, loss, and the complexity of human emotion.

