

Middle School Summer Reading - 2021

Each student **must** read the following title for his/her grade in September. There is one required selection for fifth and sixth graders and one required reading selection for seventh and eighth grade students.

(Students are encouraged to write notes about each book as they read. These notes can be used for the test in September.)

Grades 5 & 6

Rising Above: How 11 Athletes Overcame Challenges in Their Youth to Become Stars - Gregory Zuckerman

"Team USA goalkeeper Tim Howard was diagnosed with Tourette Syndrome in 6th grade. He went on to become a national treasure after single-handedly keeping America competitive in the 2014 World Cup. Stephen Curry was told he was too small, too weak, and too slow to even receive a scholarship to play college basketball. He outworked everyone and went on to become MVP of the National Basketball Association. Jim Abbott was born without his right hand, yet he refused to be defined by what he lacked. He went on to pitch a no-hitter in the Major Leagues.

Athlete after athlete in this book found discipline, hope, and inspiration on the playing field, rising above their circumstances. Filled with first-hand accounts from stars who exemplify the idea of enduring at all costs, *Rising Above* will serve as a must-read source of inspiration for kids and sports fans of all ages."

(Goodreads)

Grades 7 & 8

Farewell to Manzanar - Jeanne Wakatsuki Houston

"During World War II a community called Manzanar was created in the high mountain desert country of California. Its purpose was to house thousands of Japanese Americans. Among them was the Wakatsuki family, who were ordered to leave their fishing business in Long Beach and take with them only the belongings

they could carry. Jeanne Wakatsuki Houston, who was seven years old when she arrived at Manzanar in 1942, recalls life in the camp through the eyes of the child she was. First published in 1973, this new edition of the classic memoir of a devastating Japanese American experience includes an inspiring afterword by the authors.” (Amazon)

Optional Reading Selections

In the interest of offering choice as well as accounting for differences in interest, reading comprehension levels, and engagement, we are offering a list of books for students who would like to do additional reading over the summer. It is our hope that by offering choice, we better fulfill the mission and goal of summer reading - to engage students in reading. Try out one or two of the following books and enjoy your reading experience!

The Toothpaste Millionaire by Jean Merrill

Hatchet by Gary Paulsen

Holes by Louis Sachar

Tuck Everlasting by Natalie Babbitt

Watsons Go to Birmingham by Christopher Paul Curtis

The Westing Game by Ellen Raskin

Bud, Not Buddy by Christopher Paul Curtis

The Call of the Wild by Jack London

The Book Thief by Markus Zusak

Harriet Tubman: Conductor of the Underground Railroad by Ann Petry