

## Middle School Summer Reading Program

The goal of the SPS Summer Reading Program is to encourage and promote all students and families to find the time to sit back and enjoy a few hours to read. Students have the ability to make choices, to read at an ability level that is appropriate for them, and most importantly, to enjoy their reading.

In each grade, careful consideration was taken into account about a theme that is meaningful to their grade level. Students should read a book that encompasses that theme so that when they enter our doors in the fall, they have a commonality to discuss with their grade level peers.

It is expected that students will read a book connected to one of these themes; discovery, integrity, character, change, grit or perseverance. A list of books is included for each grade level, however, all middle school students may choose any book from the 6-8 list since many have shared themes.

It is through our summer reading this year that we are going to explore that possibility and the possibilities are endless.

With Gratitude,

Ms. Principe

- Grade 6- **Discovery/Change:** Students will make discoveries by meeting new teachers and new friends. They will even discover their lockers! Even more importantly, students will make discoveries about themselves: who they are as a student, friend, and learner.
- Grade 7- **Integrity/Character:** Grade 7 students will return to school and we will remind them about the importance of character development and having integrity.
- Grade 8- **Grit/Perseverance:** Grit is the sum of determination, courage, and refusal to allow obstacles to stand in the way of goals. Students entering their final year in middle school learn that while things are not always easy, success and goals can be reached with grit and perseverance.

## Grade 6 Summer Reading

*"You must be the change you wish to see in the world."* - Mahatma Gandhi

A list of possible texts are listed below, but feel free to add to this list if you wish or explore one from the grade 7 & 8 list.

- *Number the Stars*, by Lois Lowry
- *Stargirl*, by Jerry Spinelli
- *The Last Shot*, by John Feinstein
- *Heat*, by Mike Lupica
- *The Boy on the Wooden Box*, by Leon Leyson
- *The Brooklyn Nine*, by Alan Gratz
- *Esperanza Rising*, by Pam Munoz Ryan
- *Among the Hidden*, by Margaret Peterson Haddix
- *Paperboy*, by Vince Vawter
- *Brown Girl Dreaming*, by Jaqueline Woodson

## Grade 7 Summer Reading

*"Character is doing the right thing when nobody's looking. There are too many people who think that the only thing that's right is to get by, and the only thing that's wrong is to get caught"*- JC Watts, Politician

A list of possible texts are listed below, but feel free to add to this list if you wish or explore one from the grade 6 & 8 list.

- *Jeremy Fink and the Meaning of Life*, by Wendy Mass
- *Zen and the Art of Faking It*, by Jordan Sonnenblick
- *Listening for Lions*, by Gloria Whelan
- *The Wednesday Wars*, by Gary D. Schmidt
- *The Ballad of Lucy Whipple*, by Karen Cushman
- *Counting by Seven's*, by Holly Goldberg Sloan
- *Wonder*, by R.J. Palacio
- *Stella* by Starlight, by Sharon Draper
- *Walk Two Moons*, by Sharon Creech
- *Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry*, by Midred D. Taylor

## Grade 8 Summer Reading

*“What lies behind us and what lies before us are tiny matters compared to what lies within us.”* -Ralph Waldo Emerson

Please choose one of the books from the grade 8 “Grit” summer reading list below or one from the grade 6 & 7 list.

- *The Fault in Our Stars*, by John Green
- *Paper Towns*, by John Green
- *Geeks*, by Jon Katz
- *Gathering, Blue* by Lois Lowry
- *Cinder*, by Marissa Meyer
- *Elephant, Run* by Roland Smith
- *The Uglies*, by Scott Westerfeld
- *The Absolute True Diary of a Part-Time Indian*, by Sherman Alexie
- *The Breadwinner*, by Deborah Ellis
- *Freak the Mighty*, by Rodman Philbrick

**Grades 6-8 Reading Projects: Projects will be done at the start of the school year. Students should plan and prepare, but the project is not due at the beginning of school. Enjoy reading your book and be prepared to explore your project once we return to campus.**

**Piece of Artistic Expression:** If you are artistic or good with your hands, create a painting, sculpture, diorama, or other visual media object connected to your book.

**Comic Book:** Create a comic book using the plot of the book you just read. You don’t need to include every little detail, but all the main events and main characters should be covered. The project should include at least 10 different frames. Your comic book should be illustrated in color.

**Character Journal:** Choose one character from your book and write five to ten journal entries from his or her point of view. Detail the thoughts and feelings of this character as he or she experiences the plot of your novel. Each entry should be 7 sentences in length, typed, double spaced.

**Getting Into Character:** If you consider yourself an actor or actress, you might like to take on the persona of a character from your book. Prepare a presentation in which YOU are that character and tell the story of your book from the character's point of view.

**Poetry Journal:** If you enjoy writing poetry, you can write a collection of poems that chronicle your novel. You need to write five poems that correspond to characters, themes, events, or other elements seen throughout your novel. Along with each poem, your collection should include some kind of illustration or image to go along with each poem.

**Movie Trailer:** If you think the book you just read would make a great movie, create a movie trailer to show to the class. It should be 2 minutes in length and you should be able to show the final product to the class.

**Create a Game:** You are a board game manufacturer, and you have been assigned the task of creating a board game based on your book that will help students review everything they read in a fun and interesting way!

1. Make your game board neat, colorful, interesting, and creative!
2. Create at least 20 questions and answers for your game that relate to the novel. The questions must be somehow incorporated into playing the game.
3. Relate the format and purpose of your game to the novel in some way. Example: the game board is in the shape of a castle or the purpose is to escape the evil grandmother.
4. Write directions for your game that would make it perfectly clear how to play the game. Type the directions.

## **Grade 8 (Only) Summer Reading Option (or choose from above)**

### **Whose Phone is This?.**

**FIRST CREATE YOUR Wallpaper** – Sketch the character's cell phone wallpaper

NEXT: NEATLY WRITTEN IN PEN OR TYPED ON SEPARATE PAPER COMPLETE THE FOLLOWING:

Explain in 1 – 2 paragraphs why this image would appeal to this character.

**2. Email** – Create and format two emails the character might receive. Explain why the character would have received each of the emails and how this connects to the theme.

Each email should be a paragraph in length( 5-7 sentences) and the explanations should each be 1-2 paragraphs.

**3. Playlist** – List 3 song titles with artists' names that would likely be on the character's playlist. Write or type at least 1 paragraph (5-7 sentences) explanation for each.