**REQUIRED SUMMER READING LIST 2020**

**(5TH – 12TH Grade)**

Please read the book(s) for the grade level you will be entering in the fall.

Be sure to fill out a Summer Reading Summary Worksheet for each book read.

Students are strongly encouraged to read not only their required reading this summer but to participate in summer reading programs offered in the area. Summer reading programs are offered through public libraries and book stores such as Barnes and Noble and Half Price Books.

**5th Grade:**

***Missing Pieces* - Jerry Jenkins**

Someone is playing mailbox baseball in the town where Bryce and Ashley Timberline live, and a missing person’s case has caught Ashley’s attention. All clues point to their stepsister’s boyfriend, Randy, leaving broken mailboxes in their wake, and Bryce is determined to prove it. Will Randy find out before they can discover the truth?

**6th Grade:**

***The Door Within* by Thomas Wayne Batson**

Aidan Thomas is miserable. Within two weeks, Aidan’s life is completely uprooted as his parents move the family across the country to

care for his ailing grandfather. The quiet but imaginative Aidan is struggling with attending a new school and fitting in with a new group

of friends. But when he begins having nightmares and eerie events occur around his neighborhood, Aidan finds himself drawn to his

grandfather's basement—where he discovers three ancient scrolls and a mysterious invitation to another world.

**7th Grade:**

***Where the Red Fern Grows* –Wilson Rawls**

Billy has long dreamt of owning not one, but two, dogs. So when he’s finally able to save up enough money for two pups to call his own—Old Dan and Little Ann—he’s ecstatic. It doesn’t matter that times are tough; together they’ll roam the hills of the Ozarks.

**8th Grade:**

***The Wednesday Wars* – Gary D. Schmidt**

Meet Holling Hoodhood, a seventh-grader at Camillo Junior High, who must spend Wednesday afternoons with his teacher, Mrs. Baker,

while the rest of the class has religious instruction. Mrs. Baker doesn’t like Holling—he’s sure of it. Why else would she make him read

the plays of William Shakespeare outside class? But everyone has bigger things to worry about, like Vietnam. His father wants Holling

and his sister to be on their best behavior: the success of his business depends on it. But how can Holling stay out of trouble when he has

so much to contend with? A bully demanding cream puffs; angry rats; and a baseball hero signing autographs the very same night

Holling has to appear in a play in yellow tights! As fate sneaks up on him again and again, Holling finds Motivation—the Big M—in the

most unexpected places and musters up the courage to embrace his destiny, in spite of himself.

**9th Grade**:

***Same Kind of Different as Me* – Ron Hall and Denver Moore**

A dangerous, homeless drifter who grew up picking cotton in virtual slavery. An upscale art dealer accustomed to the world of Armani and Chanel. A gutsy woman with a stubborn dream. A story so incredible no novelist would dare dream it.

***The Outsiders* – S.E. Hinton**

No one ever said life was easy. But Ponyboy is pretty sure that he's got things figured out. He knows that he can count on his brothers, Darry and Sodapop. And he knows that he can count on his friends—true friends who would do anything for him, like Johnny and Two-Bit. But not on much else besides trouble with the Socs, a vicious gang of rich kids whose idea of a good time is beating up on “greasers” like Ponyboy. At least he knows what to expect—until the night someone takes things too far

**10th Grade**:

***Tuesday’s with Morrie* – Mitch Albom**

This is a true story about the love between a mentor and his pupil. In it we meet Morrie Schwartz--a one of a kind professor, whom the author describes as looking like a cross between a biblical prophet and Christmas elf. Even on his deathbed, this twinkling-eyed mensch manages to teach us all about living robustly and fully.

***The Count of Monte Cristo* – Alexandre Dumas**

"A piece of perfect storytelling." — Robert Louis Stevenson. First published in 1844, *The Count of Monte Cristo* remains one of literature's greatest adventures. Based on actual events, this sweeping historical romance, considered to be Dumas' finest work, recounts the story of Edmond Dantès, a gallant young sailor whose life takes a bitter turn when, during the final days of Napoleon's reign, he is falsely accused of treason and condemned to lifelong imprisonment. After languishing for many years in a fetid dungeon, he makes his dramatic escape. In a labyrinthine tale plump with themes of justice, vengeance, lost love, and mercy and forgiveness, Dantès is now free to play out his elaborate plans of revenge on those who betrayed him.

**11th Grade:**

***Fahrenheit 451* – Ray Bradbury**

Guy Montag is a fireman. In his world, where television rules and literature is on the brink of extinction, firemen start fires rather than put them out. His job is to destroy the most illegal of commodities, the printed book, along with the houses in which they are hidden. However, a chance meeting with his neighbor changes the direction of his life irrevocably.

***Hidden Figures* – Margot Shetterly**

Before John Glenn orbited the earth, or Neil Armstrong walked on the moon, a group of dedicated female mathematicians known as “human computers” used pencils, slide rules and adding machines to calculate the numbers that would launch rockets, and astronauts, into space.

**12th Grade:**

***Taliesin* – Stephen R. Lawhead**

It was a time of legend, when the last shadows of the mighty Roman conqueror faded from the captured Isle of Britain. While, across a vast sea, bloody war shattered a peace that had flourished for two thousand years in the doomed kingdom of Atlantis. This is the remarkable adventure of Charis—the courageous princess from Atlantis who escapes the terrible devastation of her land—and of the fabled seer and druid prince Taliesin, singer at the dawn of the age. A story of an incomparable love that joins two astonishing worlds amid the fires of chaos, and spawns the miracles of Merlin . . . and Arthur the king!

***And Then There Were None* – Agatha Christie**

"Ten . . ."  
Ten strangers are lured to an isolated island mansion off the Devon coast by a mysterious "U. N. Owen."

"Nine . . ."  
At dinner a recorded message accuses each of them in turn of having a guilty secret, and by the end of the night one of the guests is dead.

"Eight . . ."  
Stranded by a violent storm, and haunted by a nursery rhyme counting down one by one . . . as one by one . . . they begin to die.

"Seven . . ."  
Which among them is the killer and will any of them survive?