Summer Reading Suggestions / Required Reading for Middle-level Students

By promoting and maintaining active literacy over the summer, you prepare your child for the best start in the next school year! For readers, please make sure that your child is reading "just right" books. It is important that the text is not too hard for your child to read independently. To find out if the book is "just right" for your child, practice the 5-Finger Rule. If more than five words on a page are too difficult for your child to read, the book is not a good fit for them.

Sharing books with your child in the form of a read-aloud is also highly encouraged. This activity is best for those books that your child is eager to read but that are beyond his/her reading level. Please preview all books for appropriateness for your child. Depending on your child's growing reading ability, some of the suggested titles on the list below will be suitable for independent reading and some for family read-alouds. Also, to maintain writing fluency, encourage your child to keep a summer journal about all of their fun adventures or about connections to the characters about whom they read.

The following books are recommended if your child is entering...

**Kindergarten**
- *The Kissing Hand* by Audrey Penn
- *Miss Bindergarten Gets Ready for Kindergarten* by Joseph Slate
- *The Night Before Kindergarten* by Natasha Wing
- *Wemberly Worried* by Kevin Henkes
- *Kindergarten Rocks!* by Katie Davis
- *Bob Books* by: Bobby Lynn Maslen
- *The Biscuit Series* by: Alyssa Satin Capucilli
- *The King Of Kindergarten* by Derrick Barnes
- *Chicka Chicka Boom Boom, Chicka Chicka ABC, Chicka Chicka 123* – all by Bill Martin, Jr. and John Archambault

**First Grade**
- *Magic Tree House* Series by Mary Pope Osborne
- *Henry and Mudge: Annie and Snowball; Mr. Putter and Tabby; Poppleton* by Cynthia Rylant
- *The Elephant and Piggie Book Series* by Mo Willems
- *The Boxcar Children Series* by Gertrude Chandler Warner
- *Waiting; Lily’s Purple Plastic Purse; Wemberly Worried* by Kevin Henkes
- *Brown Bear, Brown Bear, What Do You See?; The Tiny Seed; and others* by Eric Carle
- *BOB Books* - Kindergarten and First Grade Sight Words by Bobby Lynn Maslen

**Second Grade**
- *City Hall Sandwich* by Annie Auerbach  (Word Girl reader series is a great vocabulary builder)
- *Ricky Ricotta's Mighty Robot vs. the Mutant Mosquitoes from Mercury* by Dav Pilkey
- *Revenge of the Dragon Lady* by Kate McMullan
- *Amelia Bedelia* by Peggy Parish
- The Mercy Watson Series by Kate DiCamillo
- *Second Grade Ape* by Daniel Pinkwater
- *Cam Jansen and the Mystery of the Carnival Prize; Money Math* by David Adler
- The Questioneers Series by Andrea Beaty
- *Pirates Past Noon* by Mary Pope Osborne
- *57 Saints* by Anne Eileen Heffeman
- *Dear Pope Francis: The Pope Answers Letters from Children Around the World* by Pope Francis
- *Jesus Speaks to Me on my First Holy Communion* by Angela M. Burrin
- *The Weight of a Mass: A Tale of Faith* by Josephine Nobisso
- *Frida* by Jonah Winter
- *Dream Big: Michael Jordan and the Pursuit of Excellence* by Deloris Jordan
- *Island: A Story of the Galapagos* by Jason Chin
- *The Boy Who Grew A Forest* by Sophia Gohlz
- *Science Vocabulary Readers* (Series) by Jack Prager
Smart Words Readers (Series) by Judith Bauer Stamper
Hidden Figures by Margot Lee Shetterly
Princess Pink and the Land of Fake-Believe: Moldylocks and the Three Beards by Noah Z. Jones
Life by Cynthia Rylant
You Read to Me, I'll Read to You by John Ciardi
Touch the Poem by Arnold Adoff
Poetrees by Douglas Florian
Parts of Speech Tales (Series) by Liza Charlesworth
The Man Who Walked Between the Towers by Mordicai Gerstein
So You Want to Be President? by Judith St. George
Cloudy With a Chance of Meatballs by Judi Barrett

Great Websites for Children's Books
http://www.hornbookguide.com
http://www.cbcbooks.org/readinglists/
http://www.nsta.org/publications/ostb/
http://www.nsta.org/recommends/

Third Grade
Cam Jansen (series) by David Adler
Dinosaurs Before Dark (Magic Tree House series) by Mary Pope Osborne
Lost Treasure of the Emerald Eye (Geronimo Stilton series) by Edizioni Piemme
Cinderella (As If You Didn’t Already Know the Story) by Barbara Ensor
Big Nate (series) by Lincoln Peirce
Ivy and Bean (series) by Annie Barrows
Sideways Stories from Wayside School (series) by Louis Sachar
Like Pickle Juice on a Cookie (series) by Julie Sternberg
New Beginnings (Everyday Angel series) by Victoria Schwab
The Vanishing Coin (The Magic Shop series) by Kate Egan and Mike Lane
Flora & Ulysses and The Tale of Despereaux by Kate DiCamillo
In A Blink (Disney The Never Girls series) by Kiki Thorpe
I Survived (series)
Who was…? (series) by various authors
Where is…? (series) by various authors
Secret Agent Jack Stalwart: The Escape of the Deadly Dinosaur (series) by Elizabeth Singer Hunt
American Girl Mysteries by various authors
Goldie (The Puppy Place series) by Ellen Miles
Jenny and the Cat Club: A Collection of Favorite Stories about Jenny Linsky by Esther Averill
The Rescue Princesses: Secret Promise (series) by Paula Harrison
Horse Diaries: Elska by Catherine Hapka
The Sasquatch Escape (The Imaginary Veterinary series) by Suzanne Selfors
Princess Academy (series) by Shannon Hale
Fairest of All (Whatever After series) by Sarah Mlynowski
Of Giants and Ice (The Ever Afters series) by Shelby Bach
The Familiars (series) by Adam Jay Epstein and Andrew Jacobson
The Chronicles of Narnia (series) by C.S. Lewis
Some Kind of Courage by Dan Gemeinhart
Sunny Side Up by Jennifer L. Holm
Save Me A Seat by Sarah Weeks and Gita Varadarajan
The Key to Extraordinary by Natalie Lloyd
Little House on the Prairie (series) by Laura Ingalls Wilder
Nancy Drew (series) by Caroline Keane
Hardy Boys (series) by Franklin W. Dixon
Clubhouse Mysteries (series) by Sharon M. Draper
Monsieur Marceau: Actor Without Words by Leda Schubert and Gerard DuBois

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Fourth Grade

The Girl Who Drank the Moon by Kelly Barnhill
Wolf Hollow by Lauren Wolk
A Wrinkle in Time by Madeleine L’engle
Sisters by Raina Telgemein
Fortunately the Milk by Neil Gaiman
Under the Egg by Laura Marx
Billy Sure Kid Entrepreneur by Luke Sharpe
The Cay by Theodore Taylor
The BFG and James and the Giant Peach by Roald Dahl
Rules of Summer by Shaun Tan
The Tale of Despereaux and The Magician’s Elephant by Katie Di Camillo

Bridge to Terabithia by Katherine Paterson
Island of the Blue Dolphins by Scott O’Dell
Mrs. Frisby and the Rats of Nimh by Robert C. O’Brien
The Twenty One Balloons by William Pe’ne du Bois
Dear Mr. Henshaw by Beverly Cleary
Ginger Pye by Eleanor Estes
Shiloh by Phyllis Reynolds Naylor
The Thing About Jellyfish by Ali Benjamin
Faces of the Moon by Bob Crelin and Leslie Evans

Fifth Grade

Holes by Louis Sachar
Soul Surfer by Bethany Hamilton
The Miraculous Journey of Edward Tulane by Kate DiCamillo
Jazz Day: The Making of a Famous Photograph by Roxane Orgill
Who was Marie Curie? by Megan Stine
Who was Sitting Bull? by Stephanie Spinner
John Muir: America’s First Environmentalist by Kathryn Lasky
Sarah Plain and Tall by Patricia MacLachlan
The Story of Saint John Paul II: A Boy Who Became Pope by Fabiola Garza
Accidental Archaeologists: True Stories of Unexpected Discoveries by Sarah Albee
Loyola Kids Book of Heroes: Stories of Catholic Heroes and Saints throughout History by Amy Welborn
Grand Canyon by Jason Chin
America’s National Parks (Lonely Planet Kids) by Alexa Ward
Native Americans in History by Jimmy Beason
The Moments with Jesus Encounter Bible: 20 Immersive Stories from the Four Gospels by Bill Johnson
Do the Math!: Challenging, Fun Math Puzzles for Kids by Steven Clontz

Sixth Grade

Required for all students: The War That Saved My Life by Kimberly Brubaker Bradley
Recommended Reading:
Freak the Mighty by Rodman Philbrick
A Wrinkle in Time by Madeleine L’Engle
The Chronicles of Narnia: The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe by C.S. Lewis
Gregor the Overlander by Suzanne Collins
The Tweetable Pope: A Spiritual Revolution in 140 characters by Michael J. O’Loughlin
The Adventures of Penrose the Mathematical Cat by Theoni Pappas

Seventh Grade

Required for all students: The Hobbit by J.R.R. Tolkien
Recommended Reading:
Treasure Island by Robert Louis Stevenson
The Hound of Baskervilles by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle
Among the Hidden by Margaret Peterson Haddix
The Bad Beginnings: A Series of Unfortunate Events by Lemony Snicket
Make Arduino Bots and Gadgets by Tero Karvinen

Eighth Grade

Required for all students: The Book Thief by Markus Zusak
Recommended Reading:
To Kill a Mockingbird by Harper Lee
Adventures of Huckleberry Finn by Mark Twain