Summer 2013 Reading Recommendations
For Student Entering 7th Grade in 2013-2014

To continue to develop your personal tastes in reading and to maintain (and even increase) your reading skill level, please read at least 6 full-length texts over the summer months, such as:

A Monster Calls: A Novel (Ness)  Okay for Now (Schmidt)
A Tale Dark and Grimm (Gidwitz)  Paintings from the Cave: Three Novellas (Paulsen)
Belly Up (Gibbs)  Ruby Red (Gier)
Between Shades of Gray (Sepetys)  Take Me to the River (Hobbs)
Chasing Vermeer series (Balliett)  The Maze Runner series (Dashner)
Hidden (Frost)  The Running Dream (van Draanen)
Middle School is Worse than Meatloaf (Holm)  When You Reach Me (Stead)
No More Dead Dogs (Korman)  Wish (Monninger)
Notes from an Accidental Bank Geek (Dionne)

To prepare specifically for the study of memoir and personal narratives, read texts such as:
- We Beat the Street by Sharon Draper
- Knucklehead: Tall Tales and Almost True Stories of Growing Up by Jon Scieszka
- Circuit: Stories from the Life of a Migrant Child by Francisco Jimenez
- Boy: Tales of Childhood by Roald Dahl
- Bad Boy by Walter Dean Myers

To prepare for the study of expository writing, read texts such as:
- They Call Themselves the KKK by Susan Campbell Bartoletti
- 7 Habits of Highly Effective Teens by Stephen Covey
- Spies of Mississippi by Rick Bowers
- Every Bone Tells a Story by Jill Rubalcaba and Peter Robertshaw
- Chicken Soup for the Teenage Soul: Teens Talk Middle School, edited by Jack Canfield
- An American Plague by Jim Murphy

To prepare for the study of mythology, focus on classical mythological tales from Greek, Norse, and Native American traditions and/or contemporary adaptations of mythologies, such as:
- Quiver by Stephanie Spinner
- The Great God Pan by Donna Jo Napoli
- Sirena by Donna Jo Napoli
- Navaho Indian Myths by Aileen O’Bryan
- Aphrodite’s Blessings: Love Stories from the Greek Myths by Clemence McLaren

To prepare for the “Journeys and Passages” unit of study (On-level and Honors), focus on hero-like characters who undertake both literal and figurative journeys, such as:
- The Wanderer by Sharon Creech
- The Bridge to Terabithia by Katherine Paterson
- The Chronicles of Narnia by C. S. Lewis
- The Adventures of Huck Finn by Mark Twain
- Kira Kira by Cynthia Kadohata

To prepare for the “Dramatically Speaking” unit of study (Honors only), focus on dramatic text structures by reading plays such as:
- The Phantom Tollbooth by Norton Juster
- A Doll’s House by Henrik Ibsen
- Glass Menagerie by Tennessee Williams