Summer 2013 Reading Recommendations
For Students Entering 8th 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)
- A Tale Dark and Grimm (Gidwitz)
- Belly Up (Gibbs)
- Between Shades of Gray (Sepetys)
- Chasing Vermeer series (Balliett)
- Death Cloud (Lane)
- Hidden (Frost)
- Middle School is Worse than Meatloaf (Holm)
- No More Dead Dogs (Korman)
- Notes from an Accidental Bank Geek (Dionne)

Okay for Now (Schmidt)
Paintings from the Cave: Three Novellas (Paulsen)
Ruby Red (Gier)
Take Me to the River (Hobbs)
The Maze Runner series (Dashner)
The Running Dream (van Draanen)
When You Reach Me (Stead)
Wish (Monninger)

To prepare specifically for the “Characters from the Inside Out” unit of study, focus on fiction with significant character development and character change, such as:

- Whirligig, by Paul Fleischman
- Rats Saw God by Rob Thomas
- Nothing But the Truth by Avi
- Chains by Laurie Halse Anderson

To prepare for the “Qualities of Conflict” unit of study (On-level and Honors), focus on plot-based conflict including variations on conflict resolution and multiple types of conflicts in texts such as:

- Rules of the Road by Joan Bauer
- The Power of One by Courtenay Bryce
- Olive’s Ocean by Kevin Henkes
- Death be Not Proud by John Gunther
- Staying Fat for Sarah Byrnes by Chris Crutcher

To prepare for the “Powerful Young Voices” (On-Level and Honors), focus on texts written by young writers with a focus on advocacy, such as:

- Trouble in My Head: A Young Girl’s Fight with Depression by Mathilde Monaque
- Kids with Courage: True Stories about Young People Making a Difference by Barbara A. Lewis
- Look Me in the Eye: My Life with Asperger’s by John Elder Robison
- Selections from Stone Soup or Teen Ink

To prepare for the “Mystery and Macabre” unit of study (On-level only), focus on traditional mysteries and tales of the macabre, such as:

- Christopher Killer by Alane Ferguson
- Sherlock Holmes by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle
- Death Cloud by Andrew Lane
- Net Force by Tom Clancy
- They Never Came Home by Lois Duncan
- Murders in the Rue Morgue by Edgar Allan Poe

To prepare for the “Metaphorically Speaking” unit of study (Honors only), focus on award-winning fiction and non-fiction texts that use advanced metaphorical language and symbolism, such as:

- Wintergirls by Laurie Halse Anderson
- Leviathan by Scott Westerfeld
- Stitches: A Memoir by David Small