



NISKAYUNA CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

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To all Current and Incoming Middle School Families:

Summer is a wonderful opportunity to take advantage of the time to read the books that you have a personal interest and you choose. Research suggests, and our collective experience has found, students need to read consistently over the summer months to maintain the skills and stamina they developed as readers during the school year.

We appreciate the time families carve out to prioritize reading during the months of July and August. There are so many ways to choose great books to read. You can find out what your friends are reading, stick to genres you love, try out a new series, or explore the links below and suggested titles that follow. Every summer we encourage students to read widely, and explore areas of interest across literature and informational books.

Teachers look forward to learning more about their students' summer reading journeys. We encourage all students to jot down reading reflections or maintain a reading journal for sharing with their friends and classmates when they return to school in the fall. ***Please be prepared to be able to talk about one book you read over the summer at school when you return in September.***

Please contact me at 377-4666, ext 50751, if you have any questions. We hope you have a wonderful summer full of rich experiences both out in the world and among the pages of books.

Ms. Jean Winkler
Director of English Language Arts & Library Media, K-12

Online Resources:

- <http://www.nysl.nysed.gov/libdev/summer/explore.htm> - Summer Reading at New York Libraries allow you to search leveled lists of books that include New York settings and topics.
- <https://www.literacyworldwide.org/get-resources/reading-lists> - International Literacy Association – Provides Teachers Choices Reading Lists (by level) for over 15 years.
- <http://capregboces.lib.overdrive.com/> - Check out titles online, and read or listen offline on PC or Mac®, smartphones, MP3 players, and eBook readers including Sony® Reader and Kindle®. You'll need your ID number in order to check out. Your ID number is your LIBRARY Number (AKA Lunch Number) for students. Make sure your number is FIVE DIGITS LONG! Students, please add a “0” at the beginning if your ID is only 4 digits long.

Summer Reading Recommendations

GRADE 6 – Non-Fiction

Buried Alive!: How 33 Miners Survived 69 Days Deep Under the Chilean Desert Elaine Scott
Into the Unknown: How Great Explorers Found Their Way by Land, Sea, and Air Stewart Ross
The Mighty Mars Rovers: The Incredible Adventure of Spirit and Opportunity Elizabeth Rusch
Queen of the Falls Chris Van Allsburg
Space, Stars, and the Beginning of Time: What the Hubble Telescope Saw Elaine Scott
Tales of Ancient Egypt - Roger Green
Lincoln's Grave Robbers - Steve Sheinkin

GRADE 6 – Fiction

The Lightning Thief Rick Riordan
Schooled Gordon Korman
Wolf Hollow - Lauren Wolk
Home of the Brave Katherine Applegate
Hope is a Ferris Wheel Robin Herrera
Amina's Voice Hena Khan
Crossover Kwame Alexander

GRADE 7 – Non-Fiction

An American Plague: The True and Terrifying Story of the Yellow Fever Epidemic of 1793 Jim Murphy
Phineas Gage: A Gruesome But True Story About Brain Science John Fleischman
Witches: The Absolutely True Tale of Disaster in Salem Rosalyn Schanzer
Zombie Makers: True Stories of Nature's Undead Rebecca Johnson
I Will Always Write Back Martin Ganda and Caitlin Alifirenka
Brown Girl Dreaming Jacqueline Woodson
Code Talker: A Novel About the Navajo Marines of World War Two Joseph Bruchac

Summer Reading Recommendations

GRADE 7 – Fiction

City of Ember Jeanne DuPrau

Heat Mike Lupica

Matched Allyson Condie

Touching Spirit Bear Ben Mikaelson

Alex & Eliza Melissa De la Cruz

Cloud and Wallfish Anne Nesbet

A Monster Calls Patrick Ness

GRADE 8 – Non-Fiction

Bomb: The Race to Build and Steal the World's Most Dangerous Weapon Steve Sheinkin

Bootleg: Murder, Moonshine, and the Lawless Years of Prohibition Karen Blumenthal

Hidden Figures (Young Readers Edition) Margot Lee Shetterly

Sabotage: The Mission to Destroy Hitler's Atomic Bomb (Young Adult Edition) Neal Bascomb

You Can Fly: The Tuskegee Airmen Carole Boston Weatherford and Jeffery Boston Weatherford

Little Rock Girl 1957: How a Photograph Changed the Fight for Integration Shelley Tougas

A Really Short History of Nearly Everything - (Young Adult Edition) Bill Bryson

GRADE 8 – Fiction

Uprising Margaret Peterson Haddix

A Night Divided Jennifer A. Nielsen

The Book Thief Markus Zusak

Star Wars Ahsoka E.K. Johnston

Ghost Jason Reynolds

City of Bones Cassandra Clare

Between Shades of Grey Ruta Sepetys

Milkweed Jerry Spinelli