GRADE 7 SUMMER READING
Incoming Grade 7 students are asked to read three books during the summer.

REQUIRED: The Giver by Lois Lowry. All students will read this book and participate in a unit of study surrounding dystopian literature in the first quarter of the school year. An objective style test and an essay exam will be given over this book.

STUDENT CHOICE: The remaining two books are student choice. Students should pick one book from any two of the genre categories below. Students should challenge themselves to explore a genre with which they are not as familiar. Note - students and parents should look through the list and find titles that they are both interested in and comfortable with.

Genre: Fantasy

The Keepers’ Tattoo, by Gill Arbrthnott
Ten years ago, the Shadowmen set out to eliminate the Keeper’s—a group of people who share the ancient knowledge needed to keep the world afloat. Kit was kidnapped, but his twin, Nyssa, escaped. Now the Shadowmen are on the attack again, determined to quell a growing rebellion.

The Last Dragonslayer or its sequel, by Jasper Fforde
Fifteen-year-old Jennifer Strange runs an agency for underemployed magicians in a world where magic is fading away, but when visions of the death of the world’s last dragon begin, all signs point to Jennifer—and Big Magic.

Seraphina, by Rachel Hartman
In a world where dragons and humans coexist in an uneasy truce and dragons can assume human form, Seraphina, whose mother died giving birth to her, grapples with her own identity amid magical secrets and royal scandals. During her story, she also struggles to accept and develop her extraordinary musical talents.

The Iron Fey or any in the series, by Julie Kagawa
Sixteen-year-old Meghan, who has felt like something in her life has been slightly off since her father disappeared when she was six, learns that she is the daughter of a mythical fairy king, becomes involved in a deadly war, and tries to find love with a young prince.

Midwinterblood, by Marcus Sedgwick
Travelling back in time from 2073 to the dark of the moon and the days of the Vikings, this is the story of Eric and Merle who have loved and lost one another and who have been searching for each other ever since. In seven different stories, the two appear in different forms as they come close to finding each other before facing the ultimate sacrifice.
Payback Time, by Carl Deuker
Mitch True, an overweight and generally quiet high school senior, wants to be an ace investigative journalist, but instead is stuck as a sports reporter. But when Mitch begins covering the new cornerback who throws as if he is in the NFL, Mitch faces an ethical dilemma: how much of a story you should or should not tell.

The Secret Life of Bees, by Sue Monk Kidd
Fourteen-year-old Lily and her companion, Rosaleen, an African-American woman who has cared for Lily since her mother’s death ten years earlier, flee their home after Rosaleen is victimized by racist police officers and find a safe haven in Tiburon, South Carolina at the home of three beekeeping sisters, May, June, and August.

Ungifted, by Gordon Korman
The word "gifted" has never been applied to someone like Donovan Curtis, but when the troublemaker pulls a major prank at school, he thinks he has finally gone too far. In an unlikely turn of events, Donovan finds himself at the gifted school and discovers that his gifts might be exactly what the school’s robotics team needs.

Every Soul A Star, by Wendy Mass
Ally, Bree, and Jack meet at Moon Shadow, an isolated campground, to watch a total eclipse of the sun, but soon they begin to learn a great deal about themselves, each other, and the universe.

Touching Spirit Bear, by Ben Mikaelsen
Cole Matthews has been stealing and fighting for years, but this time he has gone too far. Cole is offered a choice of prison or a one-year banishment to a remote Alaskan Island. In order to survive, Cole must start blaming others and take responsibility for his life.

Okay for Now, by Gary D. Schmidt
Fourteen-year-old Dough Swieteck faces many challenges, including an abusive father, a brother traumatized by Vietnam, suspicious teachers and police officers, and isolation. But when he meets a girl known as Lil Spicer, he develops a close relationship with her and finds a safe place at the local library.

Counting by 7s, by Holly Goldberg Sloan
Twelve-year-old genius and outsider Willow Chance must figure out how to connect with other people and find a surrogate family after her parents are killed in a car accident.

Peak, by Roland Smith
A fourteen-year-old boy attempts to be the youngest person to reach the top of Mount Everest.

Genre: Classics
Little Women, by Louisa May Alcott
Chronicles the joys and sorrows of the four March sisters as they grow into young women in nineteenth-century New England. Includes illustrated notes throughout the text explaining the historical background of the story.
Martian Chronicles, by Ray Bradbury
The first five people to attempt the colonization of Mars try to build their new world in the image of the civilization they left behind.

Old Man and the Sea, Earnest Hemingway
The story of an old Cuban fisherman, down on his luck, and his supreme ordeal—a relentless agonizing battle with a giant marlin far out in the Gulf Stream.

The Call of the Wild, by Jack London
The story of Buck, part St. Bernard and part Scotch shepherd dog, who shows the strengths of both breeds when he is stolen and sold off as a sled dog in the Yukon during the gold rush.

The Witch of Blackbird Pond, by Elizabeth George Speare
In 1687 in Connecticut, Kit Tyler, feeling out of place in the Puritan household of her aunt, befriends an old woman considered a witch by the community and suddenly finds herself standing trial for witchcraft.

The Pearl, by John Steinbeck
Kino, a poor Mexican pearl-diver, believes he has received the answer to his prayers when he finds a giant pearl worth a fortune, but tragedy soon follows.

20,000 Leagues, by Jules Verne
Jules Verne’s classic nineteenth-century science-fiction tale about a French professor and his companions who are trapped aboard a futuristic submarine with a mad sea captain and come face to face with exotic ocean creatures and strange sights hidden from the world above.

Genre: **Science Fiction**

Ender’s Game or any in the series, by Orson Scott Card
Young Ender Wiggin may prove to be the military genius Earth needs to fight a desperate battle against a deadly alien race that will determine the future of humankind.

Michael Vey: The Prisoner of Cell 25, by Richard Paul Evans
When Michael Vey moves to Idaho, he just wants to fit in with the crowd, which is difficult with Tourette’s Syndrome and secret powers. But then his mother is kidnapped by a secret corporation that wants to use his powers for their own dark purposes. What do you do when your mom’s life hangs in the balance, but saving her means sacrificing all you have and possibly hundreds of innocent lives?

Found (The Missing, #1) or any in the series, by Richard Paul Haddix
Thirteen-year-old Jonah had always known he was adopted and never thought it was a big deal until he started receiving mysterious letters. Jonah is thrown into a mystery that involves the FBI, a vast smuggling operation, and people who seem to appear and disappear at will.

The Neptune Project, by Polly Holyoke
A group of kids who have been genetically altered to survive in the ocean must embark on a dangerous underwater journey to find refuge—and maybe even a way to save the world.

Genre: **Historical Fiction**

Chains, by Laurie Halse Anderson
After being sold to a cruel couple in New York City, a slave named Isabel spies for the rebels during the Revolutionary War.
Code Talkers, by Joseph Bruchac
After being taught in a boarding school run by whites that Navajo is a useless language, Ned Begay and other Navajo men are recruited by the Marines to become Code Talkers, sending messages during World War II in their native tongue.

Between Shades of Gray, Ruta Sepetys
In 1941, fifteen-year-old Lina Vilkas and her family are forced to leave their nice home in Lithuania to the harsh climate of Siberia. As she fights for her life, she uses her artistic abilities to draw pictures documenting their experiences and attempting to send messages to her imprisoned father.

Flygirl, by Sherri Smith
During World War II, a light-skinned African American girl “passes” for white in order to join the Women Airforce Service Pilots.

Countdown, by Deborah Wiles
Twelve-year-old Franny Champan’s life, along with everyone else, is living in a nation of fear. Amidst the pervasive threat of nuclear war, Fanny must face the tension between herself and her younger brother, figure out where she fits in with her family, and look beyond outward appearances.

Genre: Non-Fiction

The Nazi Hunters: How a Team of Spies and Survivors Capture the World’s Most Notorious Nazi, by Neil Bascomb
The story of Adolf Eichmann, one of the world’s most notorious Nazis, as well as courageous Israeli agents, Holocaust survivors, and their families who worked together to track down, capture, and bring Eichmann to justice.

No Place to Be: Voices from Homeless Children, Judith Berck
Details the grave situation facing homeless children and their parents who live in shelters and welfare hotels.

This innovative book offers an introduction to the history and basic concepts of graphic design from one of the most successful designers working today.

Outcasts United: The Story of a Refugee Soccer Team That Changed a Town (Adaptation for young people), by Warren St. John
American-educated Jordanian Luma Mufleh founds a youth soccer team comprised of youth from Liberia, Iraq, Afghanistan, and the Balkan states, and elsewhere in the refugee settlement town of Clarkston, Georgia, bringing the youth together to discover their common bonds as they adjust to life in a new homeland.

The President Has Been Shot! The Assassination of John F. Kennedy, by James L. Swanson
Swanson takes readers back in time with a thoroughly researched and tightly written narrative of John F. Kennedy’s assassination. This book brings events to life with extensive photographs, diagrams, and primary documents.