



District Summer Reading List



Incoming 9th Graders for the 2018 – 2019 School Year

Parents/Guardians,

The purpose of summer reading is to encourage students to read an approved novel that appeals to their own personal interests, instilling a love of reading as well as increasing literacy across the district. The following books were chosen based on many criteria, including reading level, content, interest, and more.

Students should choose one book to read over the summer from the grade-level list below*. Happy reading!

9th Grade:

Title	Author	Genre	Synopsis
<i>Travels with Charley</i>	John Steinbeck	Nonfiction - Travelogue	John Steinbeck (Feb. 27, 1902 - December 20, 1968) embarks on a journey to discover America in the fall of 1960. He drives a brand new three-quarter ton pickup camper truck and travels with his dog Charley. His purpose is to learn something about the vast United States and write a book about his experiences.
<i>Tuesdays with Morrie</i>	Mitch Albom	Philosophical Nonfiction	<p>Maybe it was a grandparent, or a teacher, or a colleague. Someone older, patient and wise, who understood you when you were young and searching, helped you see the world as a more profound place, gave you sound advice to help you make your way through it.</p> <p>For Mitch Albom, that person was Morrie Schwartz, his college professor from nearly twenty years ago.</p> <p>Maybe, like Mitch, you lost track of this mentor as you made your way, and the insights faded, and the world seemed colder. Wouldn't you like to see that person again, ask the bigger questions that still haunt you, receive wisdom for your busy life today the way you once did when you were younger?</p> <p>Mitch Albom had that second chance. He rediscovered Morrie in the last months of the older man's life. Knowing he was dying, Morrie visited with Mitch in his study every Tuesday, just as they used to back in college. Their rekindled relationship turned into one final "class": lessons in how to live.</p> <p>Tuesdays with Morrie is a magical chronicle of their time together, through which Mitch shares Morrie's lasting gift with the world.</p>
<i>Hunger Games</i>	Suzanne Collins	Utopia/Dystopia Fiction	In the ruins of a place once known as North America lies the nation of Panem, a shining Capitol surrounded by twelve outlying districts. Long ago the districts waged war on the Capitol and were defeated. As part of the surrender terms, each district agreed to send one boy and one girl to appear in an annual televised event called, "The Hunger Games," a fight to the death on live TV. Sixteen-year-old Katniss Everdeen, who lives alone with her mother and younger sister, regards it as a death sentence when she is forced to represent her district in the Games. The terrain, rules, and level of audience participation may change but one thing is constant: kill or be killed.

<p><i>Gifted Hands: The Ben Carson Story</i></p>	<p>Ben Carson</p>	<p>Inspirational Nonfiction</p>	<p>Ben Carson, M.D., works medical miracles. Today, he's one of the most celebrated neurosurgeons in the world. In <i>Gifted Hands</i>, he tells of his inspiring odyssey from his childhood in inner-city Detroit to his position as director of pediatric neurosurgery at Johns Hopkins Hospital at age 33. Ben Carson is a role model for anyone who attempts the seemingly impossible as he takes you into the operating room where he has saved countless lives. Filled with fascinating case histories, this is the dramatic and intimate story of Ben Carson's struggle to beat the odds -- and of the faith and genius that make him one of the greatest life-givers of the century.</p>
<p><i>Little Women</i></p>	<p>Louisa May Alcott</p>	<p>Coming-of-Age Fiction</p>	<p>This novel follows the lives of four sisters – Meg, Jo, Beth, and Amy March – detailing their passage from childhood to womanhood, and is loosely based on the author and her three sisters. <i>Little Women</i> was an immediate commercial and critical success. It is a fiction novel for girls that veered from the normal writings for children, especially girls, at the time. The novel had three major themes: “domesticity, work, and true love, all of them interdependent and each necessary to the achievement of its heroine’s individual identity.” <i>Little Women</i> itself “has been read as a romance or as a quest, or both. It has been read as a family drama that validates virtue over wealth.” <i>Little Women</i> has been read “as a means of escaping that life by women who knew its gender constraints only too well.” Alcott “combines many conventions of the sentimental novel with crucial ingredients of Romantic children’s fiction, creating a new form of which <i>Little Women</i> is a unique model.” Elbert argued that within <i>Little Women</i> can be found the first vision of the “American Girl” and that her multiple aspects are embodied in the differing March sisters.</p>

*Teachers may request to add a book to this list by submitting it through the school’s novel selection process.