



# District Summer Reading List



## Incoming 10<sup>th</sup> Graders for the 2016-17 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 will complete an assignment based on their book of choice. This will be counted as a grade during the first nine weeks. This grade will count as no more than 10% of their total grade for the first quarter.

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

Title	Author	Genre	Synopsis
<i>Coming Back Stronger: Unleashing the Hidden Power of Adversity</i>	Drew Brees	Nonfiction - Memoir	Coming Back Stronger is the ultimate comeback story, not only of one of the NFL's top quarterbacks, but also of a city and a team that many had all but given up on. Brees's inspiring message of hope and encouragement proves that with enough faith, determination, and heart, you can overcome any obstacle life throws your way and not only come back, but come back stronger.
<i>A Separate Peace</i>	John Knowles	Coming-of-Age Fiction	Set at a boys' boarding school in New England during the early years of World War II, <i>A Separate Peace</i> is a harrowing and luminous parable of the dark side of adolescence. Gene is a lonely, introverted intellectual. Phineas is a handsome, taunting, daredevil athlete. What happens between the two friends one summer, like the war itself, banishes the innocence of these boys and their world.
<i>Catching Fire</i>	Suzanne Collins	Utopia/Dystopia Fiction	Against all odds, Katniss Everdeen has won the annual Hunger Games with fellow district tribute Peeta Mellark. But it was a victory won by defiance of the Capitol and their harsh rules. Katniss and Peeta should be happy. After all, they have just won for themselves and their families a life of safety and plenty. But there are rumors of rebellion among the subjects, and Katniss and Peeta, to their horror, are the faces of that rebellion. The Capitol is angry. The Capitol wants revenge.
<i>The Pearl</i>	Steinbeck	Philosophical Fiction	Like his father and grandfather before him, Kino is a poor diver, gathering pearls from the gulf beds that once brought great wealth to the Kings of Spain and now provide Kino, Juana, and their infant son with meager subsistence. Then, on a day like any other, Kino emerges from the sea with a pearl as large as a sea gull's egg, as "perfect as the moon." With the pearl comes hope, the promise of comfort and of security . . .
<i>Wesley the Owl: A Remarkable Love Story of an Owl and His Girl</i>	Stacy O'Brien	Nonfiction - Memoir	On Valentine's Day 1985, biologist Stacey O'Brien adopted Wesley, a baby barn owl with an injured wing who could not have survived in the wild. Over the next nineteen years, O'Brien studied Wesley's strange habits with both a tender heart and a scientist's eye—and provided a mice-only diet that required her to buy the rodents in bulk (28,000 over the owl's lifetime). Eventually he became a gorgeous, gold-and-white macho adult with a heart-shaped face who preened in the mirror and objected to visits by any other males to "his" house. As O'Brien gets close to Wesley, she makes astonishing discoveries about owl behavior, intelligence, and communication, coining the term "The Way of the Owl" to describe his noble behavior. When O'Brien develops her own life-threatening illness, the biologist who saved the life of a helpless baby bird is herself rescued from death by the insistent love and courage of this wild animal.