June, 2017

Dear Parents and Incoming Seventh Grade Students,

The summer months offer a wonderful opportunity for children to read for pleasure. Therefore, the seventh grade literacy teachers have prepared a list of titles found below from which students may choose. The list of titles, authors, and a brief summary of each book is included. Each title has been selected for its high interest level. Each is suitable for a middle school audience.

All incoming seventh graders must select at least one title to read over the summer months from the options provided. While reading, students should keep in mind the elements of plot, characters, setting, and theme. There is a story map found below for all students to complete prior to the start of school in September. It will be collected promptly on the first day of school. These books will also be the focus of a graded project in September.

Students who are entering the Humanities or Technotics program will have a single period of Literacy this year. These students are required to read Drums, Girls, and Dangerous Pie by Jordan Sonnenblick. There will be an assessment on this book for single period students during the first week of school. Along with this required novel, students must select an additional title from the single period list found below. These selected books will be the focus of a graded project in September.

The books for the summer reading program are available from the public library. Titles can also be purchased online or in a book store.

Sincerely,

Grade 7 Literacy Teachers
Wonder by R.J. Palacio

August Pullman is not an ordinary ten-year-old kid. Sure, he's a huge Star Wars fan, he loves his dog, and he's got a pretty good sense of humor. But August was born with a craniofacial abnormality—a genetic defect that caused his facial features to be severely deformed. His life has never been "normal." Despite his differences, August and his parents decide to transition him from home school to private school now that he's entering fifth grade. It's the start of middle school, they reason, so everyone will be new. But August has to deal with so much more than just being new. Will he make friends? Will he decide to stay at the school? And can the people around him learn to see past his appearance?

The Million Dollar Throw by Mike Lupica

Thirteen-year-old Nate Brodie's life would seem to be the stuff of adolescent boys' dreams: he is the star quarterback of his school football team and has a great relationship with his best friend and soulmate, Abby McCall. However, all is not smooth sailing. The Brodies are in danger of losing their home in the economic downturn, and Abby's eyesight is failing due to a rare congenital disease. Nate thinks he may have the opportunity to solve all of his problems when he wins the chance to make a million dollars by throwing a football through a small target during halftime at a pro football game. Unfortunately, his quarterbacking skills suddenly and mysteriously desert him just as he is preparing for his big moment.

Rules by Cynthia Lord

Twelve-year old Catherine just wants a normal life, which is near impossible when you have a brother with autism and a family that revolves around his disability. She’s spent years trying to teach David the rules from “a peach is not a funny-looking apple” to “keep your pants on in public” – in order to head off David’s embarrassing behaviors. But the Summer Catherine meets Jason, a surprising, new sort-of friend, and Kristi, the potential next-door friend she’s always wished for, it’s her own shocking behavior that turns everything upside down and forces her to ask: What is normal?

Drums, Girls and Dangerous Pie by Jordan Sonnenblick

Being a member of the All-Star Jazz Band, having a hopeless crush on the hottest girl in school, and playing the part of the generic role model to his younger brother, Jeffrey, is enough to keep thirteen-year-old Steven busy in his average life, but when a tragic event happens within his family, Steven begins to realize what really matters most in the world.

The Bully by Paul Langan

A new life. A new school. A new bully. That's what Darrell Mercer faces when he and his mother move from Philadelphia to California. After spending months living in fear, Darrell is faced with a big decision. He can either keep on running from this bully or find some way to fight back.

Things Not Seen by Andrew Clements

Bobby Phillips is an average fifteen-year-old-boy. Until the morning he wakes up and can't see himself in the mirror. Not blind, not dreaming-Bobby is just plain invisible. There doesn't seem to be any rhyme or reason to Bobby's new condition; even his dad the physicist can't figure it out. For Bobby that means no school, no friends, no life. He's a missing person. Then he meets Alicia. She's blind, and Bobby can't resist talking to her, trusting her. But people are starting to wonder where Bobby is. Bobby knows that his invisibility could have dangerous consequences for his family and that time is running out. He has to find out how to be seen again-before it's too late.
Single Period Literacy/ Humanities & Technotics Reading List

Required Reading

**Drums, Girls and Dangerous Pie** by Jordan Sonnenblick

Being a member of the All-Star Jazz Band, having a hopeless crush on the hottest girl in school, and playing the part of the generic role model to his younger brother, Jeffrey, is enough to keep thirteen-year-old Steven busy in his average life, but when a tragic event happens within his family, Steven begins to realize what really matters most in the world.

In addition, select one of the following titles

**Uglies** by Scott Westerfield

Tally Youngblood lives in a futuristic society that acculturates its citizens to believe that they are ugly until age 16 when they'll undergo an operation that will change them into pleasure-seeking "pretties." Anticipating this happy transformation, Tally meets Shay, another female ugly, who shares her enjoyment of hoverboarding and risky pranks. But Shay also disdains the false values and programmed conformity of the society and urges Tally to defect with her to the Smoke, a distant settlement of simple-living conscientious objectors. Tally declines, yet when Shay is found missing by the authorities, Tally is coerced by the cruel Dr. Cable to find her and her compatriots—or remain forever "ugly." Tally's adventuresome spirit helps her locate Shay and the Smoke.

**The Eleventh Plague** by Jeff Hirsch

In the aftermath of a war, America’s landscape has been ravaged and two-thirds of the population left dead from a vicious strain of influenza. Fifteen-year-old Stephen Quinn and his family were among the few that survived and became salvagers, roaming the country in search of material to trade. But when Stephen’s grandfather dies and his father falls into a coma after an accident, Stephen finds his way to Settler’s Landing, a community that seems too good to be true. Then Stephen meets strong, defiant, mischievous Jenny, who refuses to accept things as they are. And when they play a prank that goes horribly wrong, chaos erupts, and they find themselves in the midst of a battle that will change Settler’s Landing--and their lives--forever.

**The Raft** by S.A. Bodeen

Robie is an experienced traveler. She's taken the flight from Honolulu to the Midway Atoll, a group of Pacific islands where her parents live, many times. When she has to get to Midway in a hurry after a visit with her aunt in Hawaii, she gets on the next cargo flight at the last minute. She knows the pilot, but on this flight, there's a new co-pilot named Max. All systems are go until a storm hits during the flight. The only passenger, Robie doesn't panic until the engine suddenly cuts out and Max shouts at her to put on a life jacket. They are over miles of Pacific Ocean. She sees Max struggle with a raft. And then . . . she's in the water. Fighting for her life. Max pulls her onto the raft, and that's when the real terror begins. They have no water. Their only food is a bag of Skittles. There are sharks. There is an island. But there's no sign of help on the way.