Summer Reading

Now that it’s summer, you have time to relax, lay back, and read TWO new books!

Directions:
- This summer you are required to read two books. One book has been chosen for you and is required. The second book you may choose from the list below. Remember, you can always read more than two!
- After reading both books for your grade, complete the three summer reading activity worksheets for each book. The activities are on the school website and available in the office.

Required for incoming:

6th Grade: Rules by Cynthia Lord
- (2008 California Young Reader Medal Nominee) Frustrated at life with an autistic brother, twelve-year-old Catherine longs for a normal existence but her world is further complicated by a friendship with a young paraplegic.

7th Grade: Homecoming by Cynthia Voight
- Abandoned by their mother, four children begin a search for a home and an identity.

8th Grade: Whale Talk, by Chris Crutcher
- When football star Mike Barbour bullies brain-damaged Chris Coughlin for wearing his dead brother's letter jacket, T.J. hatches a scheme for revenge. He assembles a swim team (in a school with no pool) made up of the most outrageous outsiders and misfits he can find and extracts a conditional promise of those sacred letter jackets from the coach.

Choose one additional book, or more, from the list:
Optional Book List:
Choose One or More

- Books are put in order based on reading level. Within each genre the books are ordered from low to high. The number in parenthesis does not reflect the grade level or reading level for the book.

Comedy

**Diary of a Wimpy Kid: Greg Heffley’s Journal by Jeff Kinney**
- Life in Middle School
- Greg records his sixth grade experiences at his middle school. Greg and his best friend, Rowley (undersized weaklings amid boys who need to shave twice daily), hope just to survive. When Rowley grows more popular, Greg must take drastic measures to save their friendship.
- 1st of series (May read others in series)

**Schooled by Gordon Korman (4.0)**
- Accepting others
- Cap lives in isolation with his grandmother, a former hippie. When she falls from a tree and breaks her hip, Cap is sent to a foster home where he has his first experience in a public school.

**How to Steal a Dog by Barbara O’Connor (4.4)**
• Poverty and Self Esteem
• Georgina Hayes is desperate. Ever since her father left and they were evicted from their apartment, her family has been living in their car. With her mama juggling two jobs and trying to make enough money to find a place to live, Georgina is stuck looking after her younger brother, Toby. She has her heart set on improving their situation. When Georgina spots a missing-dog poster with a reward of five hundred dollars, the solution to all her problems suddenly seems within reach.

Stargirl by Jerry Spinelli (6.1)
• In this story about the perils of popularity, the courage of nonconformity, and the thrill of first love, an eccentric student named Stargirl changes Mica High School forever.
• Sequel: Love Stargirl.

Paul Bucking the Sarge by Christopher Curtis (7.1)
• Deeply involved in his cold and manipulative mother’s shady business dealings in Flint, Michigan, fourteen-year-old Luther keeps a sense of humor while running the Happy Neighborhood Group Home for Men, all the while dreaming of going to college and becoming a philosopher.

Realistic Fiction
Godless by Pete Hautman (4.8)
- When sixteen-year-old Jason Bock and his friends create their own religion to worship the town's water tower, what started out as a joke begins to take on a power of its own.

Heartbeat by Sharon Creech (5.1)
- Poetry & Rhymes
- Twelve-year-old Annie ponders the many rhythms of her life the year her mother becomes pregnant, her grandfather begins faltering, and her best friend (and running partner) becomes distant.

Journey of the Sparrow by Fran Leeper Buss & Daisy Cubias (6.3)
- Friendship
- Maria, her older sister Julia, and small brother, Oscar, are illegal aliens, having been smuggled into the U. S. nailed in crates and shipped in the back of a coyote's truck. They are Salvadorans from a peasant village whose men have been openly murdered or "disappeared." The climactic moment arrives when Maria must make a dangerous return trip to Mexico to get her baby sister, who was left in the care of friends along the way.
Where the Red Fern Grows *by Wilson Rawls* (6.4)

- Billy and his precious coonhound pups romp relentlessly through the Ozarks, trying to "tree" the elusive raccoon. In time, the inseparable trio wins the coveted gold cup in the annual coon-hunt contest, captures the wily ghost coon, and bravely fights with a mountain lion. When the victory over the mountain lion turns to tragedy, Billy grieves but learns the beautiful old Native American legend of the sacred red fern.

Speak *by Laurie Halse Anderson* (7.1)

- Parent Advisory: May not be appropriate for younger readers.
- Since the beginning of the school year, high school freshman Melinda has found that it's been getting harder and harder for her to speak out loud. Could it be due to the fact that no one at school is speaking to her because she called the cops and got everyone busted at the seniors' big end-of-summer party?

The Crossing *by Gary Paulsen* (7.1)

- Friendship
- Manny is a small Mexican street boy in Juarez. Manny is an orphan who survives by using his wits and his speed against other desperate boys. He struggles against the evil street men who would kill or sell him, against starvation and death. Manny has only one chance to survive, and that means crossing the river into the United States. This will be an incredibly dangerous undertaking for a small boy alone.
Kiss Me Tomorrow by Susan Shreve (7.2)

- Love Story
- Blister was there for Jonah when he was the new student that everyone loved to hate. Blister was there for Jonah when he lied and said he was a big TV personality. Blister was right alongside Jonah when he turned his lie into a real job at a television station, complete with his very own show. Jonah is in trouble once again, and he's looking to Blister to be more than just a friend.

Adventure/Mystery/Suspense/Horror

The Invention of Hugo Cabret by Brian Selznick (5.2)

- (2008 Caldecott Medal Winner, 2007 National Book Award) Hugo is a twelve-year-old Hugo orphan who is repairing clocks and living in a Paris train station in 1931. When he meets a mysterious toy seller and his goddaughter, his undercover life and his biggest secret are jeopardized.

Flight # 116 Is Down by Caroline B. Cooney (6.7)

- Teenager Heidi Landseth helps rescue people from a plane crash on her family's property, and the experience changes her life forever.
**Thirteen Reasons Why by Jay Asher**
- “You can’t stop the future. You can’t renew the past. The only way to learn the secret is to push PLAY!”
- Clay Jensen returns home from school to find a mysterious box with his name on it lying on his porch. Inside he discovers cassette tapes recorded by Hannah Baker—his classmate and crush—who committed suicide two weeks earlier. On tape, Hannah explains that there are thirteen reasons why she decided to end her life.

**Historical Fiction**

**The Green Glass Sea by Ellen Klages (4.5)**
- Friendship
- (2007 Scott O’Dell Award for Historical Fiction) While her father works on the Atomic Bomb, eleven-year-old gadget lover and outcast Dewey Kerrigan becomes friends with Suze, another young girl who is shunned by her peers.

**Royal Diaries: Elizabeth I, Red Rose of the House of Tudor by Kathryn Lasky (4.8)**
- Set in 1544 in medieval England, Princess Elizabeth keeps a diary of her experiences of courtly life. This is the same court that once ordered the beheading of her mother.
Tree Girl by Ben Mikaelsen (5.8)
- Gabriela witnesses the destruction of her Mayan village and the murder of nearly everyone while hiding in her favorite tree. Gabriela vows never to climb again. After she and traumatized sister find safety in a Mexican refugee camp, she realizes that only by climbing and facing their fears can she and her sister hope to have a future.

Summer of My German Soldier by Bette Breen (6.9)
- Love Story
- Minutes before the train pulled into the station in Jenkinsville, Arkansas, Patty Bergen knew something exciting was going to happen. German prisoners of war have arrived to make their new home in the prison camp in Jenkinsville. To the rest of her town, these prisoners are only Nazis. But to Patty, a young Jewish girl with a turbulent home life, one boy in particular becomes an unlikely friend.

Farewell to Manzanar by Jeanne Wakatsuki Houston (7.8)
- Jeanne Wakatsuki was seven years old in 1942 when her family was uprooted from their home and sent to live at Manzanar internment camp with 10,000 other Japanese Americans. This is the true story of one spirited Japanese-American family's attempt to survive the indignities of forced detention.
Science Fiction/Fantasy

The Lightning Thief by Rick Riordan (3.4)
- 1st of Series (May read others)
- Percy Jackson is a good kid, but he can't seem to focus on his schoolwork or control his temper. Lately, being away at boarding school is getting worse. Percy could have sworn his pre-algebra teacher turned into a monster and tried to kill him. When Percy's mom finds out, she knows it's time that he knew the truth about where he came from...

Maximum Ride by James Patterson (4.2)
- 1st of series (The Angel Experiment)
- Fourteen-year-old Maximum Ride, better known as Max, knows what it's like to soar above the world. She and all the members of the "Flock." Fang, Iggy, Nudge, Gasman and Angel are just like ordinary kids-only they have wings and can fly. It may seem like a dream come true to some, but their lives can morph into a living nightmare at any time.

Snakehead by Anthny Horowitz (5.3)
- Alex Rider crash lands off the coast of Australia where he is recruited by the Australian Secret Service to infiltrate one of the ruthless gangs operating across Southeast Asia. In the midst of his dangerous mission, Alex discovers information about his parents' murder.
Dragonwings by Laurence Yep (6.1)

- Moon Shadow was eight years old when he left China to join his father in San Francisco's Chinatown. After a few years of living in the Chinese community, Moon Shadow and his father moved to a stable behind a boarding house, where Windrider builds his flying machine and Moon Shadow will be safe from street violence.

Twilight by Stephanie Meyer

- Teen Romance
- 1st in the Series (May Read others in series)
- About three things I was absolutely positive. First, Edward was a vampire. Second, there was a part of him, and I didn't know how dominant that part might be, that thirsted for my blood. Third, I was unconditionally and irrevocably in love with him.

Uglies by Scott Westfield

- Tally is about to turn sixteen, and she can't wait. Not for her license for turning pretty. In Tally's world, your sixteenth birthday brings an operation that turns you from a repellent ugly into a stunningly attractive pretty.
How can I find my Summer Reading Book?

Check your books out from the local library, the book mobile, or purchase the book from Barnes & Noble, Borders, or Target.

- If you have a San Mateo Public Library card and an internet account, you can have any of these books delivered to your local library for free check out. The steps to put a book on hold are as follows:
  1. Log on to the card catalog [https://catalog.plsinfo.org/search/](https://catalog.plsinfo.org/search/).
  2. Search for the title of your book.
  3. After clicking on the title of the book you are searching for, use the mouse to click on the hold button.
  4. The catalog will now ask you to:
     a. Enter your library card number and password.
     b. Choose the library where you would like to pick up your book.
     c. When finished click submit.

     *There should be no charge for children’s books. When you go to pick your book up, make sure you remind them to wave the fee.

  5. Now all you have to do is wait a few days and pick up your book at the selected location.

- San Mateo Foster City Bookmobile
To check books out from the bookmobile, the teacher in charge will make you a library card with a parent signature and telephone number. This will allow you to borrow books all summer. Contact the district office for more details.

- Locations
  - College Park
    715 Indian Avenue, San Mateo
  - Horrall
    949 Ocean View Avenue, San Mateo
  - The Boys and Girls Club on Quebec
    200 N. Quebec Street, San Mateo