**Summer 2014 Reading Recommendations**

**For Students Entering 7th Grade in 2014-2015**

To continue to develop your personal tastes in reading and to maintain (and even increase) your reading skill level, read at least 10 full-length texts over the summer months, such as:

*Navigating Early* (Vanderpool)

*A Tale Dark and Grimm* (Gidwitz

*Belly Up* (Gibbs)

*Between Shades of Gray* (Sepetys)

*Chasing Vermeer* series (Balliett)

*Death Cloud* (Lane)

*Hidden* (Frost)

*Middle School is Worse than Meatloaf* (Holm)

*No More Dead Dogs* (Korman)

*Notes from an Accidental Bank Geek* (Dionne)

*Okay for Now* (Schmidt)

*Paintings from the Cave: Three Novellas* (Paulsen)

*Ruby Red* (Gier)

*Take Me to the River* (Hobbs)

*The Maze Runner* series (Dashner)

*The Running Dream* (van Draanen)

*When You Reach Me* (Stead)

*Wish* (Monninger)

To prepare specifically for the study of memoir and personal narratives (ELA 7 and ELA 7 Honors), read texts such as:

* We Beat the Street, by Sharon Draper
* The Warrior’s Heart: Becoming a Man of Compassion and Courage by Eric Greitens
* Circuit: Stories from the Life of a Migrant Child by Francisco Jimenez
* Boy: Tales of Childhood by Roald Dahl
* Guys Read: Funny Business by Jon Scieszka
* Bad Boy by Walter Dean Myers

To prepare for the study of expository writing (ELA 7 and ELA 7 Honors),, read texts such as:

* Lincoln’s Grave Robbers by Steve Sheinkin
* How They Croaked! By Georgia Bragg
* Spies of Mississippi by Rick Bowers
* Every Bone Tells a Story by Jill Rubalcaba and Peter Robertshaw
* Chicken Soup for the Teenage Soul: Teens Talk Middle School, edited by Jack Canfield
* An American Plague by Jim Murphy

To prepare for the study of mythology (ELA 7 and ELA 7 Honors), focus on classical mythological tales from Greek, Norse, and Native American traditions and/or contemporary adaptations of mythologies, such as:

* Sea of Trolls (trilogy) by Nancy Farmer
* Quiver by Stephanie Spinner
* The Great God Pan by Donna Jo Napoli
* Sirena by Donna Jo Napoli
* Navaho Indian Myths by Aileen O’Bryan

To prepare for the “Journeys and Passages” unit of study (ELA 7 and ELA 7 Honors), focus on hero-like characters who undertake both literal and figurative journeys, such as:

* One Came Home by Amy Timberlake
* The Mostly True Adventures of Homer P. Figg by Rodman Philbrick
* The Wanderer by Sharon Creech
* A Soldier’s Secret: The Incredible True Story of Sarah Edmonds by Marissa Moss
* The Chronicles of Narnia by C. S. Lewis
* Kira Kira by Cynthia Kadohata

To prepare for the “Dramatically Speaking” unit of study (ELA 7 Honors only), focus on dramatic text structures by reading plays such as:

* The Phantom Tollbooth by Norton Juster
* The BFG: A Set of Plays by Roald Dahl
* Pushing Up the Sky: Seven Native American Plays by Joseph Bruchac