



April 2018

Dear Parents/Guardians:

This summer, District 205 will be utilizing the Elmhurst Public Library's "Summer Reading for Middle Schoolers" list in an effort to support and encourage middle school students' active summer reading. The purpose for promoting summer reading is to reinforce students' continued development and growth of their overall comprehension, vocabulary knowledge, reading fluency, and background knowledge.

This summer students are encouraged to read as many books from the list as possible. Wide reading is crucial for students and exposes them to new words and prepares them for the rigorous reading they will encounter in high school. All titles on the list are organized by genre. This will allow students the flexibility to choose books of their interest. Please note if you live outside of the Elmhurst Public Library district, you may take the reading list to your local public library to select your summer reading.

Before students leave for the summer, teachers will review the books on the list and speak with your child about the importance of reading over the summer. On the back of this letter you will find a **Genre Characteristics Guide** identifying the characteristics of the various genre types to assist students in their book selections.

Best wishes for a delightful summer of reading and more,

Nikki Tammaru
Director of Literacy
Elmhurst CUSD205

GENRE CHARACTERISTICS GUIDE

FANTASY—*stories that include the following:*

- impossible events
- magical powers
- strange or imaginary setting
- imaginary creatures

SCIENCE FICTION—*stories that often include the following:*

- scientific theories or data
- advanced technology
- futuristic settings
- other worlds/planets

HISTORICAL FICTION—*stories that often include the following:*

- historical setting/time period
- historical facts
- historical details (clothing, language, etc.)

CONTEMPORARY (Realistic) FICTION—*stories that often include the following:*

- real world setting
- realistic topic/conflict
- everyday language
- events that could really happen

MYSTERY—*stories that often include the following:*

- suspense
- solving a puzzling event or situation
- centered around a person who investigates a situation
- centered around a person or persons
- foreshadowing

NON-FICTION (Informational Text)—*stories that often include the following:*

- real people/places/events

Note: Topics such as Supernatural, Graphic Novels, Adventure, Sports, and Other Lands, Other People can fall under the genres listed above. If necessary, talk to a librarian or a knowledgeable adult to help you categorize a book into one of the genres listed above. You may choose a title not listed but written by one of the many authors featured in the summer brochure. We hope that this eases any difficulties in check out of materials from the EPL.