

Grade VII – Summer Work

Students entering seventh grade in the fall are encouraged to work on math skills and required to read at least FOUR books over the summer. Students are expected to arrive to school in September ready to actively engage in discussions about these texts.

Unless noted, families must either purchase or borrow their own copies of these books. Digital format (Kindle) is acceptable, as is audio book accompaniment for readers who benefit from it.

To strengthen the home-and-school connection, you are invited (but by no means required) to read these selections alongside your child. Most of all, please join us in promoting reading as a wonderful way to unplug, relax, and enjoy the summer.

English

Our intention for summer reading is to promote a lifelong love of reading, enrich students' understanding of the world, and prepare them for Grade VII.

Students are expected to select books that they have not read before; If students have read all of these books, they are expected to re-read one.

1. ONE selection from the Grade VII Summer Novel List:

Readers should make mental note of overarching themes, character development, and storytelling techniques (ex, perspective, narrative arc) used by the authors

[The Lines We Cross](#) by Randa Abdel-Fattah

[Hound of the Baskervilles](#) (unabridged) by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle

[The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Nighttime](#) by Mark Haddon

[Echo](#) by Pam Munoz Ryan

[The Seventh Most Important Thing](#) by Shelley Pearsall

2. ONE selection from the Grade VII Summer Novel in Verse

List: Readers should make mental note of poetic devices and how form lends meaning to the text.

[The Crossover](#) and/or [Rebound](#) by Kwame Alexander

[Enchanted Air](#) by Margarita Engle

[Diamond Willow](#) by Helen Frost

[The Red Pencil](#) by Andrea Davis Pinkney

[White Rose](#) by Kip Wilson

If you have any questions about reading or obtaining these texts, contact [Susan Bogue Myslik](#).

Community Reading

3. ONE choice from the four Community Reading Books

Students selected their book and were given a paper copy before summer. Students from all Upper Division grades will meet in book clubs to discuss in the fall. Questions? Please contact [Alice Lucey](#)

Flying Lessons edited by Ellen Oh

The Girl Who Drank the Moon by Kelly Barnhill

Nowhere Boy by Katherine Marsh

Piecing Me Together by Renee Watson

Undefeated by Steve Sheinkin

Social Studies

4. Required social studies text

The social studies department will provide students with a copy of this book.

Chains, by Laurie Halse Anderson, is an historical fiction novel set around the time of the American Revolution. *Chains* is told from the point of view of a 13-year-old enslaved girl named Isabel. The novel takes a look into the arguably hypocritical nature of the revolution. Patriots fought for freedom — but only for a select few. Although the novel is fictional, the story delves into events that actually took place and includes some real historical characters. Adapted from www.supersummary.com

As they read and after they have finished reading *Chains*, we ask that students complete this linked [worksheet](#). Questions? Please contact [David Perry](#)

Math

Just as students benefit from reading throughout the summer, regular practice with problem solving, computation, and math facts will maintain and strengthen the mathematical gains made during the school year. We recommend students practice the following skills to a level of proficiency to start Grade VII math. For students who would benefit from targeted skill practice, we recommend that families purchase the [Spectrum Math Workbook](#). For students seeking more mixed skill review, we recommend [Summer Math Skill Sharpener](#) workbook. Please purchase the grade level your child just completed. Questions? Please contact [Christy Keblusek](#).

Stretch and Challenge

For additional stretch and challenge, we recommend [Problems of the Week](#) on the MathCounts website, [previous AMC8 contest](#) competitions and [previous Purple Comet competitions](#).