

Here you will find
recommendations by
individual staff members.
See if you love their books
as much as they do.

Reminder: Some staff members even offer incentives with
their books.

HMSA Genre Passport

Read books from different genres and earn a special prize. Genres are noted as follows:

- Humor (H)
- Mystery/Suspense (M/S)
- Historical Fiction (HF)
- Science Fiction (SF)
- Romance (R)
- Fantasy (F)
- Travel/Adventure (T/A)
- Biography/Autobiography (B/A)
- Award Winning (AW)
- Non- Fiction (NF)
- Graphic Novels (GN)
- Poetry (P)
- Short stories/Anthologies (SS/A)
- Classics (CL)

Mr. Berumen-- Principal

Incentive: Free treat and scintillating conversation to be remembered forever.

Periodicals:

- *The Los Angeles Times*
- *Sports Illustrated*

Books:

- The Tipping Point by Malcolm Gladwell
- The Fabric of the Cosmos by Brian Green

Special Selections:

- HMSA Student Handbook
- HMSA Yearbook

Mr. Atanga

- Things Fall Apart by Chinua Achebe
- Anthills of the Savannah by Chinua Achebe

Ms. Brandon-- Environmental Science

Incentive: Fun
stickers for your
reusable water
bottle!

Books:

- The Magicians (3 book series) by Lev Grossman
- Little Fires Everywhere by Celeste Ng
- The Hobbit by J.R.R. Tolkien
- Ready Player One by Ernest Cline
- Fahrenheit 451 by Ray Bradbury
- Into the Wild & Into Thin Air by Jon Krakauer
- Silent Spring by Rachel Carson
- A Walk in the Woods by Bill Bryson

Periodicals:

- Scientific American
- National Geographic
- Wall Street Journal

Ms. Bui-- Counselor

Incentive: Lunch
with the Ms. Bui

- Mindset: The New Psychology of Success by Carol Dweck (NF)
- Outliers: The Story of Success by Malcolm Gladwell (NF)
- How to Win Friends and Influence People by Dale Carnegie (NF)
- The Outsiders by S.E. Hinton
- The Kite Runner by Khaled Hosseini (HF)
- Great Expectations by Charles Dickens (CL)

Mrs. Castellanos-- Assistant Principal

Incentive:
Conversation and
Starbucks

Lean In: Women, Work, and the Will to Lead (B/A) by Sheryl Sandberg

College Admissions Trade Secrets: A Top Private College Counselor Reveals the Secrets, Lies, and Tricks of the College Admissions Process (NF) by Andrew Allen

Bossypants (B/A) (H) by Tina Fey

People of the Book: A Novel (M/S) by Geraldine Brooks

Bel Canto (R) (M/S) by Ann Patchett

Run (M/S) by Ann Patchett

The Alchemist (AW) by Paulo Coelho

Firecracker (H) by David Iserson

A Thousand Splendid Suns by Khaled Hosseini

The Joy Luck Club by Amy Tan

Daughter of Fortune by Isabel Allende

Mr. Duran-

Life Skills

Entrepreneurship

Fiction

The Alchemist (AW) by Paulo Coelho

World War Z by Max Brooks

It by Stephen King

Jurassic Park: A Novel by Michael Crichton

Catch - 22 by Joseph Heller

Non Fiction

Unbroken: A World War II Story of Survival, Resilience, and Redemption by
Laura Hillenbrand

The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks by Rebecca Skloot

The Four Agreements: A Practical Guide to Personal Freedom Don Miguel Ruiz

A People's History of the United States by Howard Zinn

Ms. Enger-- English

Incentive: Students must read the book, discuss it with me, and complete a one- pager during office hours to earn optional points.

For all students

1. [Daytripper](#) by Fabio Moon and Gabriel Ba (10 pts)
2. *The New Frontier*, volumes [one](#) and [two](#), by Darwyn Cooke (5 pts each)
3. [Dark Night: A True Batman Story](#) by Paul Dini (10 pts)
4. [Naive. Super](#) by Erland Loe (10 pts)
5. [The Martian](#) by Andy Weir (10 pts)
6. [Haroun and the Sea of Stories](#) by Salman Rushdie (10 pts)
7. [The History of Love](#) by Nicole Krauss (10 pts)
8. [Coach Wooden and Me](#) by Kareem Abdul-Jabbar
9. [Year of Yes: How to Dance It Out, Stand In the Sun and Be Your Own Person](#) by Shonda Rhimes [audiobook highly recommended] (10 pts)
10. [Outliers: The Story of Success](#) by Malcolm Gladwell [ditto audiobook] (10 pts)

Ms. Enger-- English (Continued)

Incentive: Students must read the book, discuss it with me, and complete a one- pager during office hours to earn optional points.

For American Lit students

1. [A Tree Grows in Brooklyn](#) by Betty Smith (10 pts)
2. [The Amazing Adventures of Kavalier & Clay](#) by Michael Chabon (10 pts)
3. [The Art of Fielding](#) by Chad Harbach (10 pts)
4. *March*, books [one](#), [two](#), and [three](#), by John Lewis (5 pts each)
5. [American Born Chinese](#) by Gene Yuen Yang (5 pts)
6. [Brown Girl Dreaming](#) by Jacqueline Woodson (10 pts)
7. [The Soul of Baseball: A Road Trip Through Buck O'Neil's America](#) by Joe Posnanski (10 pts)
8. [Gone with the Wind](#) by Margaret Mitchell (20 pts)
9. [A People's History of the United States](#) by Howard Zinn (20 pts)
Abridged versions:
 - a. [A Young People's History of the United States, Vol. 1](#) (10 pts)
 - b. [A Young People's History of the United States, Vol. 2](#) (10 pts)
 - c. [A People's History of American Empire](#) (5 pts)
10. [What Unites Us: Reflections on Patriotism](#) by Dan Rather (10 pts)

Ms. Enger-- English (Continued)

Incentive: Students must read the book, discuss it with me, and complete a one- pager during office hours to earn optional points.

For AP Lit students

1. [The Odyssey](#) by Homer, translated by Emily Wilson (20 pts)
2. [Beowulf](#) translated by Seamus Heaney (20 pts)
3. [Paradise Lost](#) by John Milton (20 pts)
4. [Moby Dick](#) by Herman Melville (20 pts)
5. [Crime and Punishment](#) by Fyodor Dostoevsky (20 pts)
6. [Great Expectations](#) by Charles Dickens (20 pts)
7. [Wuthering Heights](#) by Emily Bronte (20 pts)
8. [Invisible Man](#) by Ralph Ellison (20 pts)
9. [Their Eyes Were Watching God](#) by Zora Neale Hurston (20 pts)
10. [The Paris Wife](#), by Paula McLain (10 pts)

Ms. Garcia-- Spanish

Incentive: Students must read the book, discuss it with me, and complete a one-page typed paper to earn the points.

- In the time of the Butterflies by Julia Alvarez (Available in Spanish and English)
- San Manuel Bueno, mártir by Miguel de Unamuno
- Lazarillo de Tormes anonymous (Spanish)
- La casa de Bernarda Alba by Federico Garcia Lorca (Spanish Play)
- Como agua para chocolate by Laura Esquivel (Available in Spanish and English)
- El Burlador de Sevilla y Convidado de Piedra by Tirso de Molina (Spanish Play)
- Self Made by Nely Galan

Short Stories

- “El Hijo” by Horacio Quiroga
- “Chac Mool” by Carlos Fuentes
- “El Sur” or “La Brújula” by Jorge Luis Borges
- Any chapter from El Quijote by Cervantes

Mr. Highducheck-- U.S. History

Incentive: Students must read the book, pass an AR test, and write a minimum one page report on the book so I can verify that they read it. They can do this once a semester and raise any test grade (except final or midterm) by 2 grades or 20%.

- Uncle Tom's Cabin by Harriet Beecher Stowe
- The Scarlet Letter by Nathaniel Hawthorne

Ms. Jordan – Spanish II

Incentive: This is an optional assignment that allows a student to replace their lowest grade on a test or a quiz with full credit.

Students must read the book and complete a one-pager to earn the points.

- **Mexican/American Literature**
- Burro Genius by Victor Villasenor (AW)
- Rain of Gold by Victor Villasenor (AW)
- **Chilean Literature**
- La Casa de los Espíritus by Isabel Allende (AW)
- **Colombian Literature**
- One Hundred Years of Solitude Gabriel Garcia Marquez (AW)
- **Brazilian Literature**
- The Alchemist by Paulo Coelho (AW)

**Mr. Kircher--
Physical
Education**

- The Stand by Stephen King (SF)

Ms. Latigay – Math

- The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time by Mark Haddon (M/S)
- Swamplandia! by Karen Russel (F, AW)
- Go Ask Alice by “ Anonymous”
- All Creatures Great and Small by James Herriot (H, SS/A)
- All Things Bright and Beautiful by James Herriot (H, SS/A)
- All Things Wise and Wonderful by James Herriot (H, SS/A)
- Atlas Shrugged by Ayn Rand (SF, R, M/S)

Mr. Maddox— Math

- Mathematics, a Human Endeavor: A Textbook for Those Who Think They Don't Like the Subject by Harold Jacobs (NF)

Ms. Mendoza– Spanish

- The Infernal Devices by Cassandra Clare (F)
- Eat, Pray Love by Elizabeth Gilbert (T/A)
- The Glass Castle by Jeanette Walls,
- The Short and Tragic Life of Robert Peace by Jeff Hobbs (B/A)
- Seabiscuit or Unbroken by Laura Hillenbrand(NF)
- Interpreter of Maladies by **Jhumpa Lahiri** (SS/A)
- Emma, Sense and Sensibility by Jane Austen (CL)
- Middlesex by Jeffrey Eugenides
- The Brief and Wondrous Life of Oscar Wao by Junot Diaz
- Americanah by Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie
- Blindness José Saramago (AW)

Ms. Mendoza– Spanish (Continued)

- Why Not Me? by [Mindy Kaling](#) (H)
- Gone Girl by Gillian Flynn
- The Girl on the Train by Paula Hawkins (M/S)
- The Girl with the Pearl Earring by Tracy Chevalier
- All the Light We Cannot See by Anthony Doerr
- Snowflower and the Secret Fan by Lisa See (HF)
- Ready Player One by Ernest Cline (SF)
- Eleanor and Park by Rainbow Rowell (R)
- The Harry Potter Series by J.K. Rowling

Ms. Morris– World Literature

Incentive: Students can earn up to 50 optional points towards their Literary Analysis (LRA/AIM) grade (not to exceed 100%):

--completing a one-page typed analysis (see me for prompt choices)
--briefly discussing the book with me

- Captain Corelli's Mandolin by Louis de Bernieres
- Snow Falling on Cedars by David Guterson
- The Lord of the Rings Series by J.R.R. Tolkien
- Guns, Germs and Steel by Jared Diamond (NF)
- Blindness by Jose Saramago
- The Lives of Girls and Women by Alice Munro (short story collection)
- Mountains Beyond Mountains by Tracy Kidder (NF)
- Heart of Darkness by Joseph Conrad (compare to Things Fall Apart)
- Any 10th grade literature circle selection NOT officially assigned to you

Ms. Pham

- Blown to Bits- Your Life, Liberty, and Happiness After the Digital Explosion by Hal Abelson Ken Ledeen Harry Lewis
- A Thousand Splendid Suns by Khaled Hosseini
- The Kite Runner by Khaled Hosseini

Ms. Sharpe – World History

Incentive: Students must read the book and complete a book review. They can do this once a semester and replace any test grade OR add 10 points to the midterm or final.

Complete descriptions of each book and the required book review format can be found on Ms. Sharpe's website in the locker, labeled Recommended Reading List.

- NF Salt: A World History by Kurlansky
- NF Reading Lolita in Tehran by Nafisi
- NF All But My Life by Klein
- F Dante's Daughter by Heuston
- F A Bottle in the Gaza Sea by Zenati
- F The Walking Drum by L'Amour
- F Paradise of the Blind by Duong
- F A Thousand Splendid Suns by Hosseini
- F Ishmael by Quinn
- F The Underdogs by Azuela
- F Bloodline by Cary
- F A Long Way Gone: Memoirs of a Boy Soldier by Beah
- F A Heart of Darkness by Conrad
- NF Tasting the Sky: A Palestinian Memoir by Barakat
- F Clouds of Sparrow by Matsuoka

Ms. Sharpe – World History (Continued)

Complete descriptions of each book and the required book review format can be found on Ms. Sharpe's website in the locker, labeled Recommended Reading List.

- F Genghis: Lords of the Bow by Conn
- F Anil's Ghost by Ondaatje
- F Bride Price by Emecheta
- NF Robespierre by McGowen
- F Memoirs of a Geisha by Golden
- F Joy Luck Club by Tan
- F Bonesetter's Daughter by Tan
- F Crusade: The Heretic's Secret by Wilson
- NF Collapse: How Societies Choose to Fail or Succeed by Diamond
- NF In the Garden of Beasts: Love, Terror, and an American Family in Hitler's Berlin by Larson
- NF We Band of Angels: The Untold Story of the American Women Trapped on Bataan by Norman
- NF Farewell to Manzanar by Houston
- NF Flags of Our Fathers: Heroes of Iwo Jima by Bradley
- NF Red Scarf Girl: A Memoir of the Cultural Revolution by Jiang

Ms. Siegler-- English I

Incentive: Students must read the book, discuss it with me, and complete a one-pager to earn 10 points back on their midterm/final for that semester (this option can only be done once)--otherwise they can earn full credit back on an incomplete/missing assignment.

- The Color of Water: A Black Man's Tribute to His White Mother by James McBride (B/A, NF)
- I'll Give You the Sun by Jandy Nelson (F)
- Bright Side by Kim Holden (F)
- Etched in Sand by Regina Calcaterra (B/A, NF)
- Coming Clean by Kimberly Rae Miller (B/A, NF)

Ms. Vazquez- Counselor

Lunch with Ms. Vazquez

- Always Running: La Vida Loca: Gang Days in L.A. by Luis J. Rodriguez
- I'm not your perfect Mexican Daughter by Ericka L. Sanchez
- The Brief Wondrous Life of Oscar Wao by Junot Diaz
- Four Agreements Practical Personal Freedom by Don Miguel Ruiz