Winchester Thurston School

SUMMER READING 2026

Middle School

WT Middle School Summer Reading

*****Reading requirements must be completed before August 25, 2026, the start of the 2026-2027 school year.*

Important introduction information:

The Winchester Thurston Middle School Summer Reading Program consists of two main components: Advisory Summer Reading and Required Summer Reading for Academic classes. You will find all of the needed information on this page for both components, so be sure to review the information for Advisory Summer Reading and any required reading for your classes based on your grade level.

Resources to help find book recommendations:

In addition to the required and suggested books here, there are many other great reads for your family to explore this summer! For additional suggestions, ask your local librarian or click on the following links:

- Association for Library Services for Children 2026 Summer Reading Lists
- American Library Association Youth Media Awards for 2026
- Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh Graded Booklists
- School Library Journal's Best Books of 2025

Middle School Librarian Contact Information:

Kira Senedak
senedakk@winchesterthurston.org

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Middle School Advisory

This summer, the entire Middle School Community will be engaging in summer reading that will connect to our Advisory theme for the 2026-27 School Year: Perseverance. Each student chose a book from a curated list, and they will read the novel over the summer, thinking about ways that perseverance played a role in the story.

A copy of the selected book was provided for all. If you are new to our Middle School Community, be sure to get a copy from the Admission office. When we return to school in the fall, we will host book talk discussions and other fun activities! Find additional resources to guide your reading, like sample reading calendars, ways to access audiobooks, and guiding questions in this guide.

Although students have already chosen the book they would like to read, you can find the complete list of options here:

The Running Dream - Van Draanen
Ten Thousand Tries - Makechenie
Take Back the Block - Giles
New From Here - Yang
Focused - Gerber
Sparkle - Wilson
Paradise on Fire - Rhodes

Sixth Grade

For English, choose one title from the list below:

Out of My Mind - Draper
Fish in a Tree - Hunt
New Kid - Craft
It Ain't So Awful, Falafel - Dumas

Please review this message from your Middle School English teacher.

Seventh Grade

For English:

For English, choose one title from the list below:

Genesis Begins Again - Williams
I Will Always Write Back: How One Letter Changed Two Lives - Ganda and Alifirenka
Insignificant Events in the Life of a Cactus - Bowling
The Remarkable Journey of Coyote Sunrise - Gemeinhart

Please review this message from your Middle School English teachers.

For Spanish:

Students in Spanish should choose at least one of the options listed for their grade level below. Before reading, be sure to check out Señora Hartung's tips and suggestions in this document.

Option 1: *Las aventuras de Miguelito* by Fabiola Canale
Option 2: *Sebas en el patio* by Nicole Hartung

For French:

Students going into 7th grade French must read one book on Flangoo and take the quizzes after each chapter. Students are encouraged to engage with additional reading. Suggestions are found here.

For Mandarin:

Students in Mandarin will read three short stories or chapters in DuChinese over the summer. After finishing each story, complete this short survey to get credit for that reading. (You will fill this out three times.) Happy reading!

Eighth Grade

For English:

For English, all students must read The Hunger Games (Collins) AND choose one title from the list below:

House in the Cerulean Sea - Klune
Charlie Hernandez and the League of Shadows - Calejo
Elatsoe - Badger
Children of Blood and Bone - Adeyemi
Unwind - Shusterman
The Beasts We Bury - Taylor
Tristan Strong Punches a Hole in the Sky - Mbalia
The Kingdom - Rothenberg
Renegades - Meyer
The Last Dragon on Mars - Reintgen
Snow Globe - Park

Please review this message from your Middle School English teacher for summer reading assignment instructions.

For Spanish:

Students in Spanish should choose at least one of the options listed below. Before reading, be sure to check out Señora Hartung's tips and suggestions in this document.

Option 1: *Armando el alpaca aventurera* by Teryn Henderson
Option 2: *El camino de Samuel* by Penny Dean

For French:

Students going into 8th grade French must read one book on Flangoo and take the quizzes after each chapter. Students are encouraged to engage with additional reading. Suggestions are found here.

For Mandarin:

Students in Mandarin will read three short stories or chapters in DuChinese over the summer. After finishing each story, complete this short survey to get credit for that reading. (You will fill this out three times.) Happy reading!