

## ***Announcing Our NMS Summer Reading List!***

Summer reading books have been chosen that align with our BEST standards and units of study. Students will be held accountable for reading two books over the summer. **The starred book from the incoming grade level list is required.** The second book is free choice from the appropriate grade level list. Required reading will be reviewed by the Language Arts Department during the first month of the 2026-2027 school year.

An **optional** story map may be printed out to take notes on to help with remembering the important parts of the books. We hope you enjoy the books that have been selected.

If you have any questions, please email: Ms. Jamie Santori, Language Arts Department Co-Chair, at: [jamie.santori@browardschools.com](mailto:jamie.santori@browardschools.com), Ms. Yanique Vaughn, Language Arts Department Co-Chair, at: [yanique.vaughn@browardschools.com](mailto:yanique.vaughn@browardschools.com), Ms. Juliet Rezende, Literacy Coach at: [juliet.rezende@browardschools.com](mailto:juliet.rezende@browardschools.com). Or Marisa Goldman, Media Specialist, at [marisa.goldman@browardschools.com](mailto:marisa.goldman@browardschools.com)

You may also call the school at: (754) 323-3700. We appreciate your participation and cooperation.

**Books may be purchased, checked out from a public library or:**

**You can join free and read through:**  
<https://www.readanybook.com/> or  
<https://openlibrary.org/>

**Audiobooks may be available through Learning Ally Audio Book Solutions in CLEVER.**

All YA books should be approved by a parent or guardian.

## **Incoming 6th Graders**

### ***\*\*\*Pax by Sara Pennypacker***

“Pax” tells the story of a boy named Peter and his best friend; a fox named Pax. When Peter’s father volunteers to go to war, Peter must give up the fox he has raised since it was a kit. Peter wars with himself as he feels guilty for abandoning his friend.

### ***Beethoven in Paradise by Barbara O’Connor***

Martin longs to be a musician, and with the encouragement of two very different friends, he eventually is able to defy his mean-hearted father and accept himself and the talent within him.

### ***The Lightning Thief by Rick Riordan***

*The Lightning Thief* by Rick Riordan is the first book in the *Percy Jackson and the Olympians* series. The story follows Percy Jackson, a regular kid who soon finds out he is actually a demigod—the son of a Greek god. When his mother is taken by a monster, Percy goes on an exciting adventure filled with danger, myths, and magical creatures. Along the way, he must use his new powers, make new friends, and try to save not only his mother but the world.

### ***Ninth Ward by Jewell Parker Rhodes***

Twelve-year-old Lanesha lives in a tight-knit community in New Orleans’ Ninth Ward. She doesn’t have a fancy house like her uptown family or lots of friends like other kids on her street. But what she does have is Mama Ya-Ya, her fiercely loving caretaker, wise in the ways of the world and able to predict the future. So when Mama Ya-Ya’s visions show a powerful hurricane—Katrina—fast approaching, it’s up to Lanesha to call upon the hope and strength Mama Ya-Ya has given her to help them both survive the storm.

*Ninth Ward* is a celebration of resilience, love, family, and friendship, and a deeply emotional story of transformation.

## **Incoming 7th Graders**

### ***\*\*\*I Am Still Alive by Kate Alice Marshall***

After a car crash kills her mother, Jess goes to live with her survivalist, off-the-grid father--whom she hasn't seen in a decade--in the Canadian wilderness. But just as the two begin to reconnect, a secret from his past arrives, leaving him dead and the cabin burned to the ground. Suddenly, Jess finds herself abandoned in the cold Canadian wilderness. With only her dog for company, Jess must find a way to survive the harsh environment if she is to seek revenge on the person who killed her father.

### ***Ender’s Game by Orson Scott Card***

Ender’s Game is set at an unspecified date in Earth’s future. The novel presents an imperiled humankind after two conflicts with an insectoid alien species they dub, “the buggers”. In preparation for an anticipated third invasion, Earth’s international military force recruits young children, including, Andrew “Ender” Wiggin, to be trained as elite officers.

### ***Peak by Roland Smith***

After fourteen-year-old Peak Marcello is arrested for scaling a New York City skyscraper, he's left with two choices: wither away in Juvenile Detention or go live with his long-lost father, who runs a climbing company in Thailand. Peak quickly learns that his father's renewed interest in him has strings attached. Big strings. As owner of Peak Expeditions, he wants his son to be the youngest person to reach the Everest summit--and his motives are selfish at best. Even so, for a climbing addict like Peak, tackling Everest is the challenge of a lifetime. But it's also one that could cost him his life.

### ***A Wrinkle in Time by Madeleine L’Engle***

It was a dark and stormy night.

Out of this wild night, a strange visitor comes to the Murry house and beckons Meg, her brother Charles Wallace, and their friend Calvin O’Keefe on a most dangerous and extraordinary adventure—one that will threaten their lives and our universe.

## Incoming 8<sup>th</sup> Graders

### **\*\*\*Fuzzy by Tom Angleberger and Paul Dellinger**

When Max—Maxine Zealster—befriends her new robot classmate Fuzzy, part of Vanguard One Middle School's new Robot Integration Program, she helps him learn everything he needs to know about surviving middle school—the good, the bad, and the really, really, ugly. Little do they know that surviving sixth grade is going to become a true matter of life and death, because Vanguard has an evil presence at its heart: a digital student evaluation system named BARBARA that might be taking its mission to shape the perfect student to extremes!

### **Number the Stars by Lois Lowry**

Set in Nazi-occupied Denmark during World War II, Number the Stars follows ten-year-old Annemarie Johansen and her best friend Ellen Rosen, who is Jewish. When the Nazis begin arresting Jewish citizens, Annemarie's family helps Ellen and others escape to safety in Sweden. Through Annemarie's courage and sacrifice, the novel highlights bravery, friendship, and the power of ordinary people to stand up against injustice.

### **Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry by Mildred D. Taylor**

This novel tells the story of the Logan family, an African American family living in Mississippi during the Great Depression. Through the eyes of nine-year-old Cassie Logan, readers see the daily realities of racism, inequality, and injustice. As the Logans fight to keep their land and protect their dignity, the novel emphasizes resilience, family unity, and standing up for what is right in the face of oppression.

### **Code Orange by Caroline B. Cooney**

Walking around New York City was what Mitty Blake did best. He loved the city, and even after 9/11, he always felt safe. Mitty was a carefree guy: he didn't worry about terrorists or blackouts or grades or anything, which is why he was late getting started on his Advanced Bio report.



Chair Sarah Leonardi  
Vice-Chair Dr. Jeff Holness  
Debra Hixon  
Maura McCarthy Bulman  
Adam Cervera  
Lori Alhadeff  
Nora Rupert  
Rebecca Thompson  
Dr. Allen Zeman

Dr. Howard Hepburn, Superintendent

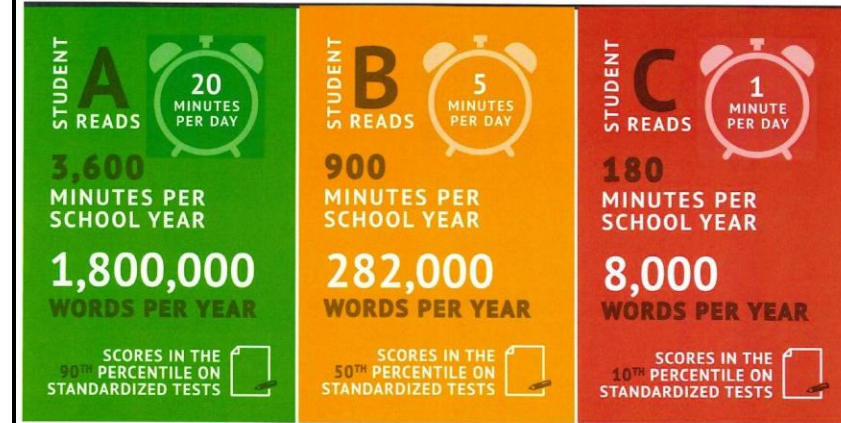
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[www.browardschools.com](http://www.browardschools.com)

## Nova Middle School Summer Reading List

### 2026

## WHY READ 20 MINUTES AT HOME?



IF STUDENTS START READING 20 MINUTES PER NIGHT IN KINDERGARTEN, BY THE END OF 6<sup>TH</sup> GRADE, STUDENT A WILL HAVE READ FOR THE EQUIVALENT OF 60 SCHOOL DAYS, STUDENT B WILL HAVE READ FOR 12 AND STUDENT C FOR 3.

WANT TO BE A BETTER READER?  
**SIMPLY READ!**

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Juliet Rezende, Literacy Coach  
Jamie Santori, Language Arts Department Co-Chair  
Yanique Vaughn, Language Arts Department Co-Chair  
Marisa Goldman, Media Specialist

We are Nova... We are intelligent, sophisticated, and hold very high expectations of ourselves!