DCS Grade 8 English language arts

2026 Summer Reading

Dublin City Schools Philosophy on Summer Reading:
Literacy involves reading, writing, speaking, listening, thinking, and interacting. When considering reading, research shows that choice and volume of reading are essential to reading development. Reading over the summer is a critical way to maintain and build upon the reading habits developed throughout the school year. Dublin City Schools values students' reading lives. Therefore, there will be year-round opportunities for students to engage in experiences that allow growth in literacy.

Summer Reading Expectations:
Each student is encouraged to read during the summer and work on completing as many BINGO squares as possible.

Dublin City Schools Summer Reading Essential Questions:
Both fictional as well as informational texts help readers better understand the world around them. Readers should consider the following questions as they read from the suggested texts on the Bingo board on the following page. The table below can be used to collect notes.

Essential Questions	Student Notes
What does this text teach me about the world?	
What is this text convincing me to do or believe?	

<u>Student Assignment</u>

1. Consider the essential questions while reading.
2. Complete a BINGO pattern to earn a Chromebook sticker.

2026 Summer Reading

Join Your Community of Readers

Students are encouraged to join the Summer Reading Google Classroom, which will connect them with resources and teachers who host the informal summer meet-ups. To join the course, use the link and access code below.

https://bit.ly/DCS-MS-SummerRead
Access Code: tq2slxro

This classroom provides online opportunities to explore and share ideas surrounding each selected summer reading text. The book does not have to be finished in order to engage in the interactions. Please stop back during these dates to explore, interact, and discuss topics online related to the summer reading books.

Discussion Meet-Ups:
These sessions provide an opportunity to listen to teacher guidance as well as engage in group discussions to share ideas surrounding your selected summer reading texts. You do not have to have the pieces completely read in order to attend these sessions. Each session has a different focus for discussion. Please bring your text to the session. Sign up to attend the meet-ups with the link below.

Date	Time	Location
June 23	2:00-3:00pm	Karrer MS Media Center
July 9	10:00-11:00am	Sells MS Media Center
July 21	10:00-11:00am	Emerald Campus Student Union
July 30	3:00-4:00pm	Dublin Library Meeting Room 1

Sign Up To Attend Meet-Ups (bit.ly/DCS-MS-SummerMeetUp) - Make sure you are part of the Summer Reading Google Classroom to receive Meet-Up updates and information! This sign up is optional, but will help teachers prepare for the meetings.

2026 Summer Reading

8th Grade Summer Reading Bingo

Read two short stories	Read outside	*When* by Victoria Laurie	Read a newspaper or magazine	Social Studies text set
Read with a family member	*Running Dream* by Wendelin Van Draanan	Read on a trip	*Other Words for Home* by Jasmine Warga	Watch a movie based on a book
Read a book of your choice	Read by the water	Science Text Set	Ask a librarian for a book recommendation	*March* by John Lewis
Read subtitles when watching a movie or show	Listen to an audiobook	Read to an animal	Poetry Text Set	Attend a Summer Reading Meet-Up or Join the Summer Reading Google Classroom
Read a play	Read an article from a magazine or a newspaper	*Dry* by Neal and Jarrod Schusterman	Read and follow a recipe or directions	A book that starts with the letter "B"

Accountability

Initial the reading options you completed. Let us allow the adults in our lives to hold us accountable and challenge us to read a variety of literature over the course of our summer. Please sign to verify your reading of the above choices.

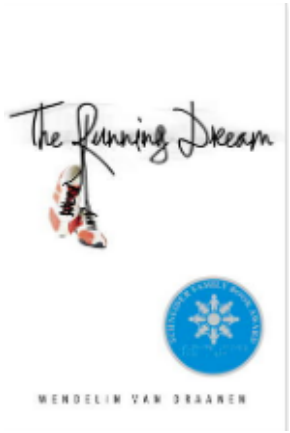
Student Reader: _____

Adult Reader: _____

2026 Summer Reading

Students should be prepared to share their thoughts and reflections about their summer reading choices when they return to school.

Other Words For Home By Jasmine Warga ISBN 1416905863 	***New York Times* bestseller and Newbery Honor Book!** Jude never thought she'd be leaving her beloved older brother and father behind, all the way across the ocean in Syria. But when things in her hometown start becoming volatile, Jude and her mother are sent to live in Cincinnati with relatives. At first, everything in America seems too fast and too loud. The American movies that Jude has always loved haven't quite prepared her for starting school in the US—and her new label of "Middle Eastern," an identity she's never known before. But this life also brings unexpected surprises—there are new friends, a whole new family, and a school musical that Jude might just try out for. Maybe America, too, is a place where Jude can be seen as she really is.
When By Victoria Laurie ISBN 484701496 	Maddie Fynn is a shy high school junior, cursed with an eerie intuitive ability: she sees a series of unique digits hovering above the foreheads of each person she encounters. Her earliest memories are marked by these numbers, but it takes her father's premature death for Maddie and her family to realize that these mysterious digits are actually death dates, and just like birthdays, everyone has one. Forced by her alcoholic mother to use her ability to make extra money, Maddie identifies the quickly approaching death date of one client's young son, but because her ability only allows her to see the *when* and not the *how*, she's unable to offer any more insight. When the boy goes missing on that exact date, law enforcement turns to Maddie. Soon, Maddie is entangled in a homicide investigation, and more young people disappear and are later found murdered. A suspect for the investigation, a target for the murderer, and attracting the attention of a mysterious

	young admirer who may be connected to it all, Maddie's whole existence is about to be turned upside down. Can she right things before it's too late? (Goodreads.com)
The Running Dream By Wendelin Van Draanen ISBN: 0375866280  	Jessica thinks her life is over when she loses a leg in a car accident. She's not comforted by the news that she'll be able to walk with the help of a prosthetic leg. Who cares about walking when you live to run? As she struggles to cope with crutches and a first cyborg-like prosthetic, Jessica feels oddly both in the spotlight and invisible. People who don't know what to say, act like she's not there. Which she could handle better if she weren't now keenly aware that she'd done the same thing herself to a girl with CP named Rosa. A girl who is going to tutor her through all the math she's missed. A girl who sees right into the heart of her. With the support of family, friends, a coach, and her track teammates, Jessica may actually be able to run again. But that's not enough for her now. She doesn't just want to cross finish lines herself—she wants to take Rosa with her. (Goodreads.com)
Dry By Neal Shusterman and Jarrod Shusterman ISBN: 1481481975 	The drought—or the Tap-Out, as everyone calls it—has been going on for a while now. Everyone's lives have become an endless list of don'ts: don't water the lawn, don't fill up your pool, don't take long showers. Until the taps run dry. Suddenly, Alyssa's quiet suburban street spirals into a warzone of desperation; neighbors and families turned against each other on the hunt for water. And when her parents don't return and her life—and the life of her brother—is threatened, Alyssa has to make impossible choices if she's going to survive. (Goodreads.com)

2026 Summer Reading

March: Book One By John Lewis ISBN: 1603093001 	March is a vivid first-hand account of John Lewis' lifelong struggle for civil and human rights, meditating in the modern age on the distance traveled since the days of Jim Crow and segregation. Rooted in Lewis' personal story, it also reflects on the highs and lows of the broader civil rights movement. Book One spans John Lewis' youth in rural Alabama, his life-changing meeting with Martin Luther King, Jr., the birth of the Nashville Student Movement, and their battle to tear down segregation through nonviolent lunch counter sit-ins, building to a stunning climax on the steps of City Hall. Many years ago, John Lewis and other student activists drew inspiration from the 1950s comic book Martin Luther King and the Montgomery Story. Now, his own comics bring those days to life for a new audience, testifying to a movement whose echoes will be heard for generations. (Goodreads.com)