8th Grade English/Language Arts
Sunset Middle School

Dear Parents/Guardians,

We are excited to announce Sunset Middle School's 8th grade summer reading challenge.

The goal of the program is to encourage students to read on a regular basis during the summer. Studies show reading four to six books during the summer can prevent the "summer slide" where a student can lose several months' worth of reading skills during the summer. Therefore, we are making two recommendations for summer reading:

- To build the habit of regular reading, we recommend that students **read at least 20 uninterrupted minutes each day**.
- We also advise that students read a wide variety of books that engage and challenge them. **The target Lexile level for 8th grade is 1010-1185**, although this is not required for summer reading.

The Lexile level of most books can be found through a quick online search. For example, the early books in the *Harry Potter* series averages a 900 Lexile level. Go to https://lexile.com to find the Lexile levels of most books. (Directions are on the Parent Verification Form on the next page.)

Grade-appropriate books that are on the Volunteer State Book Award list, published by the Tennessee Association for School Librarians, can be found at Volunteer State Book Award (Middle School Division). We also advise visiting your local library, which has several lists of releases covering a variety of genres and Lexile levels. (Links for obtaining a library card can be found here on the WCS webpage "Resources.") Digital books also can be found on Sora through Classlink. We encourage each parent/guardian to preview the books his/her student is reading to find books that match family preferences for content.

As recognition for those students who read 3 books or 800 pages during the summer, each will earn a coupon for a free Sonic treat (Yum!) and a popsicle during lunch one day. To earn these treats, students should return the Reading Verification Form to ELA teachers by Tuesday, August 18.

Please reach out with any questions you have. We look forward to teaching your student in the upcoming school year!

Sincerely,
The 8th Grade English/Language Arts team

Sunset Middle School
Rising 8th Grade Summer Reading Verification Form

Congratulations on reading during the summer! On the lines below, please record the title of each book, the author, the Lexile level, and the number of pages (if read on a device, look up the book online to find the # of pages in the printed book.). **Each time you finish a book, have your parent/guardian sign the appropriate box, indicating that you completed the book this summer.**

When you return to school in the fall, give this paper to your English Language Arts teacher by Tuesday, August 18. If you have read at least 3 books **or** a total of 800 pages during the summer, you will earn a coupon for a free Sonic treat (Yum!) and a popsicle during lunch one day. No project required!

Your First and Last Names _____ 8th Grade ELA Teacher _____

Title	**Author**	**Lexile Level**	**# of Pages**	**Parent/Guardian Signature**

* To determine a book's Lexile level, go to www.lexile.com. Choose the "Lexile Find a Book" link. Then enter the book's title in the "Quick Search" box. (8th grade target Lexile is 1010-1185, but this is not a requirement.)