Hello seventh graders, and welcome to (almost) being eighth graders!



Eighth grade is an exciting year in English as we work to help you establish habits and develop practices that will prepare you for high school level material. It is our goal to support you through this period of growth and guide you toward becoming more independent and confident in your reading and writing. To this end, we have compiled a list of recommended book titles below from which *you will select one text to complete for summer reading*.

Students should feel free to browse all titles and, in conjunction with parental input, select a text that interests them. We ask that you read <u>one</u> of these books before the first day of school in September. As you read, keep track of your observations, reactions, thoughts, and opinions.

When the school year gets underway, your eighth grade English teacher will assign a first quarter writing assessment by the end of September. You may use your original notes to help you compose that assignment, so we urge you to thoughtfully engage with the text that you choose. Most importantly, try enjoy the story!

We look forward to meeting you in September!

Warmly,
The Eighth Grade English Team

<u>Choose **one** of the below texts to read this summer.</u>
<u>All titles are available for loan through The Bryant Library or purchase through Amazon.</u>

- *Little Women* - Louisa May Alcott (for students seeking a classic work)
- *A Wrinkle in Time* - Madeleine L'Engel
- *A Long Walk to Water* - Linda Sue Park
- *Scythe* - Neal Shusterman
- *Project Hail Mary* - Andy Weir
- *Elsewhere* - Gabrielle Zevin

Dear Parents,

Welcome to eighth grade English! We are eagerly looking ahead to greeting your children when they walk through our doors in September!

Sustained reading over summer months has countless benefits for developing students. It builds skills, combats learning loss, keeps kids engaged in thinking about the world beyond themselves, and deepens knowledge, awareness, and understanding. Reading can have the greatest impact when students select titles that are appropriately suited to their current interests and ability.

If you are interested in supporting your child's pursuit of additional reading over the summer but aren't sure where to start, we offer the following lists. These are merely recommendations, so feel free to be choosy! Use your discretion in identifying selections that you think are good fits for your specific child.

We do hope you find these resources helpful, and we can't wait to see you all in September!

Warmly,
Jennifer Sapir
English Chair

Mensa's Excellence in Reading Program Grades 7-8

Time Magazine's 100 Best YA Books of All Time

American Library Association's Best Fiction for Young Adults

New York Public Library's Spring 2026 Picks for Teens