

**SAYREVILLE  
MIDDLE SCHOOL**



**Summer Reading 2021  
Incoming Grade 6, 7, and 8**

Dear Parents/Guardians,

The goal of the SMS Summer Reading Program is to provide independent practice of reading comprehension skills and to foster a lifelong love of reading for our students. It is with this in mind that we present our program for 2021.

Each grade level has a theme or topic that was selected to align to our district curriculum. Students are asked to **read one of the recommended titles for the grade level they will enter in September**. Please work with your child to select a title that interests them, fits their reading comfort zone and that you feel is a good fit content wise. We have provided a wide variety of books at each grade level for each of these criteria.

As an avid reader, I encourage your children to read more than just the one required book. Reading regularly has been proven to expand vocabulary, spark creative as well as critical thinking, and strengthen writing skills!

There is no mandatory log, nor project to be completed, but we do encourage students to complete the bookmark on page 3 of the packet to help them recall details in discussions that will take place in September. Students should be completely done reading their selection by Friday, September 10, 2021.

Students can find many of these titles online, at local bookstores and at the Sayreville Public library. We wish you a wonderful summer and hope your child enjoys his/her summer reading experience. Thank you for your continued support of the district's initiatives to help promote lifelong reading for all of our Sayreville students!

*Mrs. Kimberly A. Grossmaan*

For more information about Summer Reading and the Sayreville Schools English Department, please visit our website:

<http://sayrevillek12.net/cms/One.aspx?portalId=233846&pageId=487685>

Should you have any questions regarding the summer reading program, please email [Kimberly.Grossman@Sayrevillek12.net](mailto:Kimberly.Grossman@Sayrevillek12.net), our district ELA, ESL and World Language Supervisor. Student readers are welcome to email me to talk about anything they are reading as well!

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Grade \_\_\_\_\_

Title Selected: \_\_\_\_\_

Active readers pause while reading to reflect on the characters and plot. As you read, consider applying your signpost skills and jot down your thinking. This chart can be used in September during class discussions and your assessment.

- Sign post analysis
- Prediction
- Summary
- Connection to Text

<b>Significant detail or Sign Post I found</b>	<b>What it made me think about:</b>

## INCOMING GRADE 6: Overcoming Challenges

<p><b>Charlie Joe Jackson Guide to Extra Credit:</b> Tommy Greenwald</p> <p>Charlie Joe Jackson, the most reluctant reader ever born, made it his mission in the first book to get through middle school without reading a single book from cover to cover. Now he's back - and trying desperately to get straight As in order to avoid going to academic camp for the summer. To do this, he will have to betray his friend, lose the girl of his dreams, and end up acting in a school play about the inventor of paper towels.</p>	<p><b>Finally: A Wish Novel</b> by Wendy Mass (Book 2 of Willow Falls Series)</p> <p>After her twelfth birthday, Rory checks off a list of things she is finally allowed to do, but unexpected consequences interfere with her involvement in the movie being shot at her school, while a weird prediction starts to make sense. (You can substitute book 1 of this series if you have not read it: <b>11 Birthdays</b> by Wendy Mass)</p>
<p><b>Escape from Mr. Lemoncello's Library:</b> Chris Grabenstein</p> <p>Kyle Keeley is the class clown and a huge fan of all games-board games, word games, and particularly video games. His hero, Luigi Lemoncello, the most notorious and creative gamemaker in the world, just so happens to be the genius behind the construction of the new town library. Lucky Kyle wins a coveted spot as one of the twelve kids invited for an overnight sleepover in the library, hosted by Mr. Lemoncello and riddled with games. But when the morning comes, the doors stay locked. Kyle and the other kids must solve every clue and figure out every puzzle to find the hidden escape route!</p>	<p><b>Soul Surfer:</b> Bethany Hamilton</p> <p>In this moving personal account of faith and fortitude, internationally ranked surfer Bethany Hamilton tells how she survived a shark attack that cost her her arm- but not her spirit. This is the inspirational story of Bethany's life as a young surfer, her recovery after the attack, the adjustments she's made to her unique surfing style, her unprecedented bid for a top showing in the World Surfing Championships, and, most fundamentally, her belief in God. It is a story of girl power and spiritual grit that illustrates that the body is no more essential to surfing- perhaps even less so- than the soul.</p>
<p><b>New Kid</b> by Jerry Craft</p> <p>Seventh grader Jordan Banks loves nothing more than drawing cartoons about his life. But instead of sending him to the art school of his dreams, his parents enroll him in a prestigious private school known for its academics, where Jordan is one of the few kids of color in his entire grade. As he makes the daily trip from his Washington Heights apartment to the upscale Riverdale Academy Day School, Jordan soon finds himself torn between two worlds--and not really fitting into either one.</p>	<p><b>Titanic: Voices From The Disaster:</b> Deborah Hopkinson</p> <p>Early morning on April 15, 1912, the RMS Titanic, on her glorious maiden voyage from Southampton to New York, sank after striking an iceberg in the North Atlantic. Recollections from Titanic survivors and witnesses to the disaster bring the horrors of that night to life. Now, the saga of the Titanic is told in a brand-new way as, together with historical photographs and illustrations, the stories of these survivors capture the fateful voyage, from the majestic liner's celebrated launch to her cataclysmic icy end.</p>
<p><b>Charlie Thorne and the Last Equation</b> by Stuart Gibbs</p> <p>The CIA forces twelve-year-old Charlotte Charlie Thorne, a rebellious genius, to use her code-breaking skills on an epic global chase to locate Einstein's last equation before dangerous agents discover it and unlock the solution to harnessing energy.</p>	<p><b>The First Rule of Punk</b> by Celia C. Pérez</p> <p><i>The First Rule of Punk</i> seriously rocks (pun intended)! Twelve-year-old punk-rocker Malú has to navigate her identity at a new school and in a new home in this fun story with themes of friendship, finding your place, and learning to rock out like no one's watching.</p>

## INCOMING GRADE 7: How Setting Impacts Characters

<p><b><i>Cinder</i></b> by Marissa Meyer</p> <p>Cinder, a gifted mechanic, is a cyborg. She's a second-class citizen with a mysterious past, reviled by her stepmother and blamed for her stepsister's illness. But when her life becomes intertwined with the handsome Prince Kai's, she suddenly finds herself at the center of an intergalactic struggle, and a forbidden attraction. Caught between duty and freedom, loyalty and betrayal, she must uncover secrets about her past in order to protect her world's future.</p>	<p><b><i>Al Capone Does My Shirts</i></b> by Gennifer Choldenko</p> <p>The Newbery Honor Book and New York Times Bestseller that is historical fiction with a hint of mystery about living at Alcatraz not as a prisoner, but as a kid meeting some of the most famous criminals in our history. <i>Al Capone Does My Shirts</i> has become an instant classic for all kids to read!</p>
<p><b><i>White Bird : A Wonder Story</i></b> by R. J. Palacio</p> <p>Tells the story of Julian's Grandmère's childhood as she, a Jewish girl, was hidden by a family in a Nazi-occupied French village during World War II and how the boy she once shunned became her savior and best friend.</p>	<p><b><i>The Great Fire</i></b> by Jim Murphy</p> <p>For more than a century, poor Mrs. O'Leary and her cow have shouldered the blame for Chicago's infamous Great Fire of 1871. Now Murphy (<i>The Boys' War</i>; <i>Across America on an Emigrant Train</i>) lays bare the facts concerning one of the biggest disasters in American history.</p>
<p><b><i>Travel Team</i></b> by Mike Lupica</p> <p>Twelve-year-old Danny Walker may be the smallest kid on the basketball court -- but don't tell him that. Because no one plays with more heart or court sense. But none of that matters when he is cut from his local travel team, the very same team his father led to national prominence as a boy. Danny's father, still smarting from his own troubles, knows Danny isn't the only kid who was cut for the wrong reason, and together, this washed-up former player and a bunch of never-say-die kids prove that the heart simply cannot be measured.</p>	<p><b><i>Boy: Tales of Childhood</i></b> by Roald Dahl</p> <p>From his own life, of course! As full of excitement and the unexpected as his world-famous, best-selling books, Roald Dahl's tales of his own childhood are completely fascinating and fiendishly funny. Did you know that Roald Dahl nearly lost his nose in a car accident? Or that he was once a chocolate candy tester for Cadbury's? Have you heard about his involvement in the Great Mouse Plot of 1924? If not, you don't yet know all there is to know about Roald Dahl. Sure to captivate and delight you, the boyhood antics of this master storyteller are not to be missed!</p>
<p><b><i>Marcus Vega Doesn't Speak Spanish</i></b> by Pablo Cartaya</p> <p>Marcus is the biggest kid in eighth grade. He's six feet tall, weighs 180 pounds, and has a mustache. Due to his mature appearance, he's often perceived as a bully. Marcus is trying to cope with many personal issues, including the fact that his dad left him and his family when he was a little boy. After an incident at school, his mom decides it's time for a trip to Puerto Rico to regroup and visit family. Marcus sees it as a perfect opportunity to find and confront his estranged father.</p>	<p><b><i>Shine!</i></b> by J. J. Grabenstein</p> <p>When seventh-grader Piper's father is hired by Chumley Prep, a school where every student seems to be the best at everything, she gets the chance to compete for the prestigious Excelsior Award.</p>

## INCOMING GRADE 8 : Character Growth and Evolution

<p><b><i>Whatever Happened To Janie</i></b></p> <p>by Caroline Cooney (The sequel to The Face On The Milk Carton)</p> <p>With the mystery of her kidnapping now unraveled, Janie's story continues, and the nightmare is not over. No one can bring back or relive the 12 years gone by. The Spring family wants justice, but who is really to blame? The Johnsons know that they must abide by the court decisions made, but it's difficult to figure out what's best for everyone. Janie Johnson or Jenny Spring? Who is she? Certainly there's enough love for everyone, but how can the two separate families live happily ever after.</p>	<p><b><i>We Beat The Streets:</i></b> Rameck, George and Sampson</p> <p>Growing up on the rough streets of Newark, New Jersey, Rameck, George, and Sampson could easily have followed their childhood friends into drug dealing, gangs, and prison. But when a presentation at their school made the three boys aware of the opportunities available to them in the medical and dental professions, they made a pact among themselves that they would become doctors. <b>Trailer:</b> <a href="https://youtu.be/PyqX0uNAdW">https://youtu.be/PyqX0uNAdW</a></p>
<p><b><i>Rumble Fish:</i></b> by SE Hinton</p> <p>Rusty-James is the toughest guy in the group of high-school kids who hang out and shoot pool down at Benny's, and he enjoys keeping up his reputation. What he wants most of all is to be just like his older brother, the Motorcycle Boy.. Rusty-James isn't book-smart, and he knows it. He relies on his fists instead of his brains. Until now he's gotten along all right, because whenever he gets into trouble, the Motorcycle Boy bails him out. But Rusty-James' drive to be like his brother eats away at his world--until it all comes apart in an explosive chain of events.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Trailer: <a href="https://youtu.be/WN-lUnGwQBQ">https://youtu.be/WN-lUnGwQBQ</a></p>	<p><b><i>Gone</i></b> by Michael Grant</p> <p>In the blink of an eye, everyone disappears. Gone. Except for the young. There are teens, but not one single adult. Just as suddenly, there are no phones, no internet, no television. No way to get help. And no way to figure out what's happened. Hunger threatens. Bullies rule. A sinister creature lurks. Animals are mutating. And the teens themselves are changing, developing new talents—unimaginable, dangerous, deadly powers—that grow stronger by the day. It's a terrifying new world</p>
<p><b><i>The Boy At The Top of the Mountain</i></b> by John Boyne</p> <p>By the author of The Boy In The Striped Pajamas. When Pierrot becomes an orphan, he must leave his home in Paris for a new life with his aunt Beatrix, a servant in a wealthy Austrian household. But this is no ordinary time, for it is 1935 and the Second World War is fast approaching; and this is no ordinary house, for this is the Berghof, the home of Adolf Hitler.</p>	<p><b><i>In Their Shoes</i></b> by Deborah Reber</p> <p>This fun, accessible book should appeal to teens who are exploring career possibilities. Each chapter contains an interview with its subject, for example, Nancy Pearl, librarian, as well as sidebars and lists on what to do now to prepare, what the person's day is like, and a timeline of how her career took shape over the years. Concrete details about the women's current lives and about how they attained their goals are included. The variety of careers is impressive, ranging from forensic scientist and sheriff to social worker and actionist—a woman who is part motivational speaker, part writer, and part actress</p>
<p><b><i>Harbor Me</i></b> by Jacqueline Woodson</p> <p>Harbor Me is a breathtakingly beautiful and well-written story about a diverse group of middle school students who become unlikely confidantes through storytelling. Woodson poses the interesting question: "If the worst thing in the world happened, would I help protect someone else? Would I let myself be a harbor for someone who needs it?"</p>	<p><b><i>See You in the Cosmos</i></b> by Jack Cheng</p> <p>Follow science-loving Filipino American Alex Petroski and his dog on an adventure of recording what life on Earth is really like (and rocketing their recording out to space for alien life forms to hear). As Alex journeys across Colorado, New Mexico, and California, he meets remarkable people that lead him to uncover the secrets of his own life. A bittersweet story of love, hope, determination, and understanding.</p>