



June 2017

Dear Parents/Guardians of Students Entering Grade 9,

Summer Reading is a great opportunity for students to enjoy literature and strengthen the literacy skills necessary for academic achievement. Please find enclosed a list of Summer Reading books that are appropriate for your child's grade level. Visit the Haverhill Public Schools website for the lists of all approved books and reading logs:

<http://www.haverhill-ps.org/curriculum-department/reading-lists/>

Students are required to read **two** books (one fiction and one non-fiction), but are encouraged to read as many as possible. Books are available at the Haverhill Public Library and at local bookstores, such as Barnes & Noble. Many of these titles are also available as eBooks and/or audiobooks.

In September students will be given an assignment related to their summer reading. Teachers create assignments that address plot, character, setting, theme, conflict, etc. Students may be asked to write a brief essay, interview each other about their books, present a book report to the class, or create a project (i.e., book jacket, book cube, collage, poster). To help with these assignments, students are encouraged to take notes as they read.

Please encourage your child to read as many books as possible, but bear in mind that many families rely on the Haverhill Public Library. In consideration of others, please check out only one or two books at a time, and return them as soon as possible. This will allow all children to benefit from the local public library – a wonderful resource.

Thank you for supporting our Summer Reading Program.

Happy Reading!

HAVERHILL: ENTERING GRADE 9 SUMMER READING LIST 2017

The list below contains summer reading selections for students entering Grade 9 at HHS. Choose two books, one from **each** list, and read them by the start of the school year. An assignment will be given during the first two weeks of school, and this score will be averaged with your first quarter English grade. Some titles may be available in eBook or audiobook format at the public library and local bookstores.

FICTION

Monster

Walter Dean Myers

This *New York Times* bestselling novel from acclaimed author Walter Dean Myers tells the story of Steve Harmon, a teenage boy in juvenile detention and on trial. Presented as a screenplay of Steve's own imagination, and peppered with journal entries, the book shows how one single decision can change our whole lives.

Ender's Game

Orson Scott Card

In order to develop a secure defense against a hostile alien race's next attack, government agencies breed child geniuses and train them as soldiers. A brilliant young boy, Andrew "Ender" Wiggin lives with his kind but distant parents, his sadistic brother Peter, and the person he loves more than anyone else, his sister Valentine. After Ender is drafted to the orbiting Battle School for rigorous military training, Ender's skills make him a leader in school and respected in the Battle Room. Yet growing up in an artificial community of young soldiers, Ender suffers greatly from isolation, rivalry from his peers, pressure from the adult teachers, and an unsettling fear of the alien invaders.

How The Garcia Girls Lost Their Accents

Julia Alvarez

In this debut novel, the García sisters—Carla, Sandra, Yolanda, and Sofia—and their family must flee their home in the Dominican Republic after their father's role in an attempt to overthrow a tyrannical dictator is discovered. They arrive in New York City in 1960 to a life far removed from their existence in the Caribbean. In the wild and wondrous and not always welcoming U.S.A., their parents try to hold on to their old ways, but the girls try find new lives: by forgetting their Spanish, by straightening their hair and wearing fringed bell bottoms. For them, it is at once liberating and excruciating to be caught between the old world and the new. *How the García Girls Lost Their Accents* sets the sisters free to tell their most intimate stories about how they came to be at home—and not at home—in America.

Life As We Knew It

Susan Beth Pfeffer

High school sophomore Miranda's disbelief turns to fear in a split second when an asteroid knocks the moon closer to Earth, like "one marble hits another." The result is catastrophic. How can her family prepare for the future when worldwide tsunamis are wiping out the coasts, earthquakes are rocking the continents, and volcanic ash is blocking out the sun? As August turns dark and wintry in northeastern Pennsylvania, Miranda, her two brothers, and their mother retreat to the unexpected safe haven of their sunroom, where they subsist on stockpiled food and limited water in the warmth of a wood-burning stove. Told in a year's worth of journal entries, this heart-pounding story chronicles Miranda's struggle to hold on to the most important resource of all—hope—in an increasingly desperate and unfamiliar world. An extraordinary series debut!

An Abundance of Katherines

John Green

When it comes to relationships, Colin Singleton's type is girls named Katherine. And when it comes to girls named Katherine, Colin is always getting dumped. Nineteen times, to be exact. On a road trip miles from home, this anagram-happy, washed-up child prodigy has ten thousand dollars in his pocket, a bloodthirsty feral hog on his trail, and an overweight, Judge Judy-loving best friend riding shotgun—but no Katherines. Colin is on a mission to prove The Theorem of Underlying Katherine Predictability, which he hopes will predict the future of any relationship, avenge Dumpees everywhere, and finally win him the girl. Love, friendship, and a dead Austro-Hungarian archduke add up to surprising and heart-changing conclusions in this ingeniously layered comic novel about reinventing oneself.

NON-FICTION

Steve Jobs: The Man Who Thought Different

Karen Blumenthal

From the start, his path was never predictable. Steve Jobs was given up for adoption at birth, dropped out of college after one semester, and at the age of twenty, created Apple in his parents' garage with his friend Steve Wozniack. Then came the core and hallmark of his genius--his exacting moderation for perfection, his counterculture life approach, and his level of taste and style that pushed all boundaries. A devoted husband, father, and Buddhist, he battled cancer for over a decade, became the ultimate CEO, and made the world want every product he touched.

The Greatest: Muhammad Ali

Walter Dean Myers

Award-winning author Walter Dean Myers presents the amazing story of Muhammad Ali's childhood, his rise as a champion, his politics, and his battles against Parkinson's disease. Packed with dramatic black-and-white photos, this critically acclaimed biography is the perfect choice for both young adult sports fans and fans of Walter Dean Myers in general.

The Burn Journals

Brent Runyon

In the tradition of *Running with Scissors* and *Girl, Interrupted*, *The Burn Journals* is a truly remarkable book about teenage despair and recovery. In 1991, fourteen-year-old Brent Runyon came home from school, doused his bathrobe in gasoline, put it on, and lit a match. He suffered third-degree burns over 85% of his body and spent the next year recovering in hospitals and rehab facilities. During that year of physical recovery, Runyon began to question what he'd done, undertaking the complicated journey from near-death back to high school, and from suicide back to the emotional mainstream of life.

Stronger

Jeff Bauman

When Jeff Bauman woke up on Tuesday, April 16th, 2013 in the Boston Medical Center, groggy from a series of lifesaving surgeries and missing his legs, the first thing he did was try to speak. When he realized he couldn't, he asked for a pad and paper and wrote down seven words: "Saw the guy. Looked right at me," setting off one of the biggest manhunts in the country's history. In *Stronger*, Jeff describes the chaos and terror of the bombing itself and the ongoing FBI investigation in which he was a key witness. He takes us inside his grueling rehabilitation, and discusses his attempt to reconcile the world's admiration with his own guilt and frustration. And he tells of the courage of his fellow survivors. Brave, compassionate, and emotionally compelling, Jeff Bauman's story is not just his, but ours as well. It proves that the terrorists accomplished nothing with their act of cowardice and shows the entire world what Boston Strong really means.

American Sniper

Chris Kyle

From 1999 to 2009, U.S. Navy SEAL Chris Kyle recorded the most career sniper kills in United States military history. His fellow American warriors, whom he protected with deadly precision from rooftops and stealth positions during the Iraq War, called him “The Legend”; meanwhile, the enemy feared him so much they named him *al-Shaitan* (“the devil”) and placed a bounty on his head. Kyle, who was tragically killed in 2013, writes honestly about the pain of war—including the deaths of two close SEAL teammates—and in moving first-person passages throughout, his wife, Taya, speaks openly about the strains of war on their family, as well as on Chris. Gripping and unforgettable, Kyle’s masterful account of his extraordinary battlefield experiences ranks as one of the great war memoirs of all time.



Haverhill Public Schools

My signature below indicates that I have received the Summer Reading list and that I understand the expectations of reading two books, one from the fiction list and one from the non-fiction list, and that I must be prepared for a related, follow-up assignment, by the return to school on August 29, 2017.

_____ / _____

Signature of Student

Printed Name

_____ / _____

Signature of Parent/Guardian

Printed Name