June 2019

Dear MESMS Parents/Guardians,

We all look forward to the rest and relaxation of summer. As part of our ongoing promotion of literacy across the curriculum, all students entering 6th, 7th, and 8th grades are strongly encouraged to read at least two books during the summer. Students are also expected to complete the following requirements according to their incoming grade level.

***A NOTE TO PARENTS: Maturity and reading ability of middle school children varies tremendously. We recognize that parents are the best judge of their children’s readiness. The titles listed below have been chosen for their appeal to 6th, 7th, and 8th grade. (YA) indicates that these books by the author are suitable for mature young adults.

Incoming Grade 6:
One book must be selected from the Summer Reading List Grade 6 titles by author Wendy Mass. Students are expected to read one of her books and complete one of two prompts in response to their reading on the attached Grade 6 Summer Reading Assignment. Students are expected to bring their completed assignments to English class on Friday, September 6, 2019. Please note that some of her titles are Young Adult.

The second book must be a non-fiction book of your son/daughter's choice. Students are expected to keep a calendar of their reading (attached). A parent/guardian signature is requested on this calendar and it will be collected by your child’s English teacher on Friday, September 6, 2019.

Incoming Grade 7:
One book must be selected from the Summer Reading List Grade 7 author, Shelley Pearsall. Each student is expected to make three journal entries in a reading journal for his/her Shelley Pearsall book. This journal may be typed or handwritten. Each handwritten entry should be at least one page in length. Each typed entry should be one page, double-spaced in size 12 font, and all entries should reflect the student’s understanding of the book. The topics for these entries can be found on the attached Grade 7 Summer Reading Assignment form. All students will be expected to bring this journal to English class on Friday, September 6, 2019 for use in classroom activities.

The second book must be a non-fiction book of your son/daughter's choice. Students are expected to keep a calendar of their reading (attached). A parent/guardian signature is requested on this calendar and it will be collected by your child’s English teacher on Friday, September 6, 2019.

Incoming Grade 8:
One book must be selected from the Summer Reading List Grade 8 author, Alan Gratz. Students should take notes in a way that they find helpful, focusing on how a main character developed throughout the book and how she/he dealt with a major conflict they were facing. Students will be permitted to use their book and notes for an in-class writing assignment during the week of September 13th, 2019.

The second book must be a non-fiction book of your son/daughter's choice. Students are expected to keep a reading reflection quotation log during their reading (attached). It will be collected by your child’s English teacher on Friday, September 6, 2019.

Thank you very much for your continued support of our literacy program. Happy reading!

The MESMS English Department
Summer Reading List Grade 6

Grade 6  Wendy Mass  A Mango-Shaped Space; Jeremy Fink and the Meaning of Life; Every Soul a Star; The Candy Makers; Pi in the Sky; 11 Birthdays; Finally; Thirteen Gifts; The Last Present; Graceful

**Please note:** Leap Day and Heaven Looks a Lot Like the Mall are YA Titles

**Grade 6 Summer Reading Assignment**

After reading one book by Wendy Mass, write a short response for one of the following prompts:

- Choose one character from the book who you think would be a great friend and explain why. Be sure to use at least two examples from the text to support your thinking.

- Choose one location from the book to live in for a week. Explain why you would pick that location and what you would do there. Be sure to use at least two examples from the text to support your thinking.
Summer Reading List Grade 7

Grade 7 Shelley Pearsall

Crooked River; Trouble Don’t Last; All of the Above; All Shook Up; Jump into the Sky; The Seventh Most Important Thing

Grade 7 Summer Reading Assignment

One book must be selected from the Summer Reading List - Grade 7 titles by author Shelley Pearsall. Each student is expected to make three journal entries in a reading journal for his/her Shelley Pearsall book. This journal may be typed or handwritten. Each handwritten entry should be approximately one page in length. Each typed entry should be one page, double-spaced in 12pt font, and all entries should reflect a detailed, comprehensive understanding of the book. The topics for these entries can be found below.

All students will be expected to bring this journal to English class on Friday, September 6, 2019.

ENTRY #1. LET ME INTRODUCE MYSELF

Choose a character you met early in the book with whom you were able to make a connection.

What kind of connection can you make? (Choose one)
   a) Text to Self – (this character reminds you of yourself)
   b) Text to World – (this character reminds you of someone you’ve met in the real world)
   c) Text to Text – (this character reminds you of a character in another book)

Describe ONE way this character reminds you of either yourself, someone you’ve met, OR another character from another book. Be sure to use specific examples and descriptive details from the book to help support your answer.

ENTRY #2. AND THE PLOT THICKENS

Choose a conflict that arises in the book with which you are able to make a connection.

What kind of connection can you make? (Choose one)
   a. Text to Self – (this conflict reminds you of a conflict in your own life)
   b. Text to World – (this conflict reminds you of a conflict in the real world)
   c. Text to Text – (this event reminds you of a conflict in another book)

Describe ONE way this conflict reminds you of either a conflict in your life, a conflict in the real world, OR a conflict in another book. Be sure to use specific examples and descriptive details from the book to help support your answer.

ENTRY #3. AND THEY ALL LIVED HAPPILY EVER AFTER?

How was the story resolved?

Explain how the conflict in the story was solved and the effect it had on the main character. Be sure to use specific examples and descriptive details from the book to help support your answer.
Grade 8 Summer Reading Assignment

One book must be selected from the Summer Reading List Grade 8 titles by author Alan Gratz. Students should take notes in a way that they find helpful, focusing on how the main character developed throughout the book by tracing the changes the character undergoes, who or what may have influenced those changes, and how the character dealt with a major conflict. Students will be permitted to use their book and their notes for an in-class writing assignment during the week of September 13, 2019.

The second book must be a non-fiction book of your son/daughter's choice. Students are expected to keep a reading reflection quotation log during their reading (attached). It will be collected by your child’s English teacher on Friday, September 6, 2019.
Name:____________________________________________  Grade:___________

**Grades 6 and 7 Calendar for any Non-fiction Book**

Mark this calendar each time you read your non-fiction book. Bring this calendar to English class, signed by a parent/guardian, on Friday, September 6, 2019.

Title:___________________________________________

Author:_________________________________________

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<th>Date</th>
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Parent/Guardian Signature:_____________________________  Date:______________________
High-Interest Non-Fiction Books for Eighth Graders

Anything by Tonya Bolden
Anything by Jim Murphy
Anything by Russell Freedman
Anything by Penny Colman
Anything by Milton Meltzer
Anything by Susan Campbell Bartoletti
Anything by Marc Aronson
Anything by Deborah Ellis
Siebert Award Winners

100 Diagrams That Changed the World by Scott Christianson
A Long Way Gone by Ishmael Beah
A Night to Remember by Walter Lord
Amelia Lost by Candace Fleming
An American Plague by Jim Murphy
Black Gold by Marguerite Henry
The Blind Side by Michael Lewis
Bomb by Steve Sheinkin
Bootleg by Karen Blumenthal
Can I See Your ID? by Paul Hoppe
Candy Bomber by Michael Tunnell
Chasing Lincoln’s Killer by James Swanson
Chew On This by Charles Wilson
Chinese Cinderella by Adeline Yen Mah
Claudette Colvin: Twice Towards Justice by Phillip Hoose
Close to Shore by Michael Capuzzo
Code Talker by Joseph Bruchac
Looks Like Daylight: Voices of Indigenous Kids by Loriene Roy
Electric Dreams by Caroline Kettlewell
Elephant Talk by Ann Downer
Enrique’s Journey (adapted for young people) by Sonia Nazario
Four Perfect Pebbles by Lila Perl
Get Real: What Kind of World Are You Buying? by Mara Rockliff
Getting Away with Murder by Chris Crowe
Ghosts in the Fog by Samantha Seiple
Go: a Kidd’s Guide to Graphic Design by Chip Kidd
His Name Was Raoul by Louise Borden
Hitler Youth by Susan Bartoletti
Hoop Dreams by Ben Jorvasky
How They Croaked by Georgia Bragg
Inherit the Wind by Jerome Lawrence
Invisible Microbe by Jim Murphy
Last Bus Out by Beck McDowell
Left for Dead by Pete Nelson
Little Rock Girl 1957 by Shelley Tougas
Lost Boy Lost Girl by John Bul Dau
Moonbird by Phillip Hoose
Nazi Hunters by Neal Bascomb
October Mourning by Leslea Newman
October Sky by Homer Hickman
Omnivore’s Dilemma by Michael Pollan
On the Hardwood series
Outcasts United by Warren St. John
Phineas Gage by John Fleishman
Radioactive Boy Scout by Ken Silverstein
Red Scarf Girl by Ji-Li Jiang
Revenge of the Whale by Nathaniel Philbrick
Soul Surfer by Bethany Hamilton
Stick Figure by Lori Gottlieb
Sugar Changed the World by Marc Aronson
Super Graphic: A Visual Guide to the Comic Book Universe by Tim Leong
The Boy Who Harnessed the Wind by William Kamkwamba
The Frog Scientist by Andy Comins
The Guy Book by Mavis Jukes
The Impossible Rescue by Martin Sandler
The Long Run by Matt Long
The President Has Been Shot by James Swanson
The Race to Save the Lord God Bird - Phillip Hoose
The Two Wes Moores by Wes Moore
The Warrior’s Heart by Eric Greitens
Their Skeletons Speak by Sally Walker
Trapped by Marc Aronson
Truce by Jim Murphy
Tuesday’s With Morrie by Mitch Albom
Urban Entrepreneur series
Warriors Don’t Cry by Melba Beals
Watch This Space by Hadley Dyer
We Beat the Streets by Sampson Davis
Witches: the Absolute True Tale of Disaster in Salem by Rosalyn Schanzer
World Without Fish by Mark Kurlansky
Yes She Did series
Zlata’s Diary by Zlata Filipovic
Choose four quotations from the *nonfiction* book you read and explain the context and your thinking about them. You may attach additional sheets as needed.

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<th>QUOTATION: Copy a quotation that interested you, caught your attention, or said something that captured a main idea of the novel. Keep in mind this can either be a passage from the book or character dialogue. Identify the speaker and give the page # on which you found the quote.</th>
<th>REACTION: Briefly give the context of the quotation (what is happening at this point in the book). Then, explain your thinking. Your explanation should be at least 3-4 COMPLETE sentences. It generally requires more than just a sentence or two to really develop and convey a reader’s thinking.</th>
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