

GRISWOLD MIDDLE SCHOOL
ROCKY HILL, CT
REQUIRED SUMMER READING



FOR STUDENTS ENTERING GRADE 8

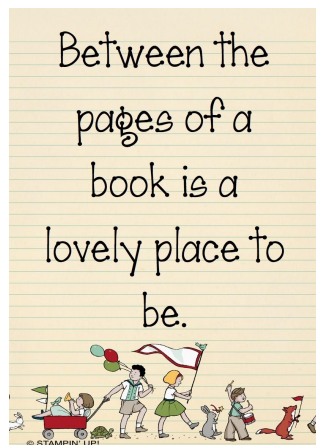
All students entering grade 8 at Griswold Middle School will participate in a required summer reading program. The program was introduced to all students during their language arts classes.

Students entering grade 8 are required to read and take notes on TWO books from the list provided. The book list and note sheets are attached.

During the first week of school, students will complete activities in language arts class based on the book he or she has read.

- Students may use their book, and their notes during the classroom activity. The classroom activity and note sheets will be graded by the language arts teachers and will count as a grade for the first marking period.

Do not let these be the only books you read over the summer!



Read for fun...
Read for relaxation..
Read for knowledge...

If you have questions you may contact
Mrs. Whitaker whitakerm@rockyhillps.com and Mrs. Lehn lehnk@rockyhillps.com
or post your question on the "Incoming Grade 8 Summer Reading" Google Classroom

Our Goal at Rocky Hill Public Schools - No More Summer Reading Loss!



Did you know, that for every 5-6 weeks a child does not read regularly, a whole reading level can be lost? That means a child can decrease by 2 reading levels over the course of a summer...don't let this happen to your child!

Did you also know that there is a strong correlation between the time a student spends reading independently outside of school and standardized test scores?

Variation in Amount of Independent Reading		
Percentile on standardized test scores	Minutes of reading per day	Words read per year
95	67	4,733,000
90	33	2,357,000
80	25	1,697,000
70	17	1,156,000
60	13	722,000
50	9	601,000
40	6	421,000
30	4	261,000
20	2	134,000
10	1	51,000

(From Striving to Thriving © 2017 by Stephanie Harvey and Anne Ward, Scholastic, Inc.)

What can you do to motivate your child to read?

Here are some activities to encourage...

- ★ Visiting the library
- ★ Setting up a routine for reading (like reading before bed)
- ★ Forming a book club with a friend or parent
- ★ Finding a book series to read
- ★ Putting your TV settings on *closed captioning*
- ★ Participating in summer reading
- ★ Reading digital books (Tumblecloud) - in the “School Links and Resources” section of the school website
- ★ Reading the same books children are reading and talking about them

Let’s help our children find books they love and **READ!!!!**

What about writing? Writing volume matters too!

Students can...

- ★ Keep a daily journal to reflect on events and thoughts
- ★ Keep a writing notebook to write stories and/or poems
- ★ Write a letter to an author
- ★ Write reviews for books, restaurants, video games, etc.
- ★ Write about reading

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INSTRUCTIONS

Students entering grade 8 must choose **TWO** books from the following list. The selections represent a range of interests, levels, and cultures. Students should make their choices based on their interests and abilities.

GRADE 8 SELECTIONS

Also Known as Rowan Pohn, by Ralph Fletcher

It starts as a prank. One summer day, high school student Bobby Steele and his friends find an application to Whitestone Academy, a very prestigious prep school, on a table at IHOP. They decide to fill it out using a fake name (Rowan Pohn), just to see if they can get him accepted. They send it in, complete with fake teacher recommendations and grades, and expect that to be the end of it. When "Rowan" actually gets accepted, Bobby, eager to leave his undesirable life behind, decides to assume Rowan's identity and take this chance at a better life. How long can he get away with it?

The Skin I'm In, by Sharon Flake

Seventh grader Maleeka Madison is miserable in her inner-city middle school. She is teased constantly by her peers about the darkness of her skin and her unstylish, second-hand clothing. Although very bright, Maleeka feels that her brains are not as valuable as the social acceptance she desperately wants. Her relationship with Miss Saunders, a new English teacher, helps her learn valuable lessons about dealing with the negative attention of her peers.

Touching Spirit Bear, by Ben Mikaelson

At age 15, Cole Matthews has been in trouble with the law before, but this time it's serious. He's been arrested for causing permanent injuries to another boy in a brutal fight and the court is trying to decide what to do with him. His probation officer, a Tungit Indian, suggests Circle Justice, a trial program where he must spend a year alone on a remote Alaska island. So Cole is banished to the island to survive alone in the wilderness.

Maximum Ride: The Angel Experiment, by James Patterson

Fourteen-year-old Maximum Ride, better known as Max, knows what it's like to soar above the world. She and all the members of the "Flock" - Fang, Iggy, Nudge, Gasman, and Angel - are just ordinary kids, only they have wings and can fly. It may seem like a dream come true, but their lives can become a nightmare at any time. Angel, the youngest member of the "Flock," is kidnapped and taken back to the "School" where she and the others were genetically engineered by sinister scientists. Max leads the others on a rescue mission that could mean death for all of them.

Seedfolks, by Paul Fleischman

A vacant lot, rat-infested and filled with garbage, looked like no place for a garden. This unlikely garden spot is in a city neighborhood of strangers where no one seems to care. The change starts on the day when a young girl clears a small space and digs into the hard-packed soil to plant her precious bean seeds. Suddenly, others see the possibilities and find hope in this small plot of land. Thirteen very different characters tell this amazing story about a garden that transforms a neighborhood.

Messenger, by Lois Lowry

This novel unites characters from *The Giver* and *Gathering Blue*. Twelve-year-old Matty lives in Village, a community of honesty, kindness, generosity, and hospitality, which welcomes "broken" people from other, less tolerant communities. Matty has a special gift. He is the only one who can travel through Forest unharmed, so the community depends on him to carry messages to other villages. When the people of Village start trading, they begin to change, putting their own selfish interests ahead of the well-being of the community. Matty must make one final journey through the suddenly hostile forest to bring back Kira, the Seer's daughter, before the Village closes its borders to outsiders forever.

The Devil's Arithmetic, by Jane Yolen

Young Hannah is not interested in her family's Jewish heritage. She dreads another family gathering where she must politely listen to their boring stories of the past. At one of these gatherings however, she opens the door and finds herself transported to the past. The year is 1940, the place is Poland. Her name is now Chaya and she is about to learn about the Nazis and the Holocaust first-hand.

Where the Lilies Bloom, by Vera and Bill Cleaver

This is the amazing story of Mary Call, a fourteen-year-old girl who has to take on the responsibility of keeping her orphaned family together. While Mary tries to keep her older, dream-filled sister from marrying a "villain," she becomes incredibly courageous and creative in thinking of ways to support her family.

Travel Team, by Mike Lupica

Seventh grader Danny Walker is a basketball fanatic. He is smart, talented, fast, and dedicated, but short. When he fails to make the travel team, he forms his own squad with others cut from the team, with his unreliable dad as the coach. They make it all the way to the championship game against their arch rivals. A fun book for sports fans.

Trapped: How the World Rescued 33 Miners from 2,000 Feet Below the Chilean Desert, by Marc Aronson

This is the true story of the collapse of a Chilean copper mine in 2010 that entombed 33 miners for 69 days. The author gives a vivid account of the physical and mental ordeals the miners faced, as well as the details of rescuers' struggles to locate the survivors and bring them to the surface.

I Am Malala, by Christina Lamb and Malala Yousafzai

This is the autobiographical story of the girl who stood up for education and was shot by the Taliban when the Taliban took control of Swat Valley in Pakistan. Malala's recovery has taken her on a journey from a remote valley in Pakistan to becoming the youngest-ever recipient of the Nobel Peace Prize laureate.

The following options are available online at [Teen Book Cloud](#) -this link should automatically log you in, but if it doesn't, here are the login credentials:

username: rockyhills

password: books

Whirlwind by Carol Matas

Benjamin Friedman, a 15-year-old Jewish boy, fears for his life in Nazi Germany. Fortunately, his family is able to escape Hitler, arriving in Seattle in the summer of 1941. Ben is relieved to be there but is upset and confused by his experiences. The teen tries to settle into his new life but faces bullying because he is German. He is afraid for John, his Japanese-American classmate, and tries to convince his friend and his own family that America is not safe and that they must flee to Canada. No one understands Ben's concerns-they believe he is ill-and this only makes him more determined to take matters into his own hands. -Donna Rosenblum, Nassau Boces School Library System, NY Copyright 2007 Reed Business Information.

Running on Empty by Sonya Spreen Bates

Everyone expected Leon Kline, anchor for the 4x100 sprint relay, to secure Gilburn High's spot in the record books. But a freak accident on the final stretch changes everything. Suddenly his future is gone. No more running, no scholarship, no college. But then he meets sassy and straight-talking Casey De Vries, and life doesn't look quite so bleak. She even gets him running again. He can't sprint anymore, but he can handle longer distances. As he gets to know Casey better, he realizes that something is not quite right. How can he help her if she won't tell him what's going on?