



Dear Parents and Guardians,

As summer approaches, we want to take a moment to encourage your child to make reading a part of their daily routine over the break. While summer is a time for relaxation and recharging, it's also a perfect opportunity to foster a love for reading and help students maintain the progress they've made throughout the school year. We have created a suggested summer reading list to assist your child in self-selecting a novel to read over the summer..

Research shows that students who read regularly over the summer are more likely to retain the academic gains they've made and start the new school year ready to learn. Just 20–30 minutes of reading a day can improve vocabulary, strengthen comprehension skills, and build confidence in all subject areas.

Reading for pleasure also opens doors to new worlds, diverse perspectives, and creative thinking. Whether your child enjoys graphic novels, fantasy adventures, realistic fiction, or nonfiction topics that feed their curiosity, the key is finding books that interest and excite them.

Here are a few ways you can support summer reading at home:

- Visit your local library together and let your child choose books that appeal to them.
- Set aside a regular time for reading each day.
- Talk with your child about what they're reading—ask questions and share your own reading experiences.
- Encourage them to keep a summer reading journal or participate in a reading challenge.

We believe that developing strong, enthusiastic readers starts with making reading a positive and enjoyable experience. Thank you for your support in helping your child grow as a reader this summer!

Wishing you a safe, fun, and book-filled summer!

Warm regards,

MPMS Reading & Language Arts Department

Huntsville ISD - Secondary Teaching & Learning





Mance Park Middle School
Suggested Summer Reading List
Grades 6-8

Jennifer Chan is Not Alone By: Tae Keller (grades 3-7)

When Jennifer runs away, her friends wonder why. Was it because she believes in aliens, or was it something her friend Mallory said? Mallory digs in deeper and reads Jennifer's private journals in this compelling mystery of friendship, bullying, alienation, middle school life and not always fitting in.

A Night Divided By: Jennifer A. Nielsen (grades 4-7)

From New York Times bestselling author Jennifer A. Nielsen comes a stunning thriller about a girl who must escape to freedom after the Berlin Wall divides her family between east and west.

Out of Mind By: Sharon Draper (grades 4-8)

Melody is not like most people. She cannot walk or talk, but she has a photographic memory; she can remember every detail of everything she has ever experienced. She is smarter than most of the adults who try to diagnose her and smarter than her classmates in her integrated classroom - the very same classmates who dismiss her as mentally challenged because she cannot tell them otherwise. But Melody refuses to be defined by cerebral palsy. And she's determined to let everyone know it - somehow.

Walk Two Moons By: Sharon Creech (grades 5-7)

As Sal entertains her grandparents with Phoebe's outrageous story, her own story begins to unfold — the story of a thirteen-year-old girl whose only wish is to be reunited with her missing mother.

Wonder By: RJ Palacio (grades 5-7)

August Pullman was born with a facial difference that, up until now, has prevented him from going to a mainstream school. Starting 5th grade at Beecher Prep, he wants nothing more than to be treated as an ordinary kid—but his new classmates can't get past Auggie's extraordinary face.

A Wrinkle in Time By: Madeleine L'Engle (grades 5-7)

Out of this wild night, a strange visitor comes to the Murray house and beckons Meg, her brother Charles Wallace, and their friend Calvin O'Keefe on a most dangerous and extraordinary adventure—one that will threaten their lives and our universe.

Awkward By: Svetlana Chmakova (grades 5-8)

Penelope Peppi Torres is convinced she will only survive middle school by following the unwritten rules of social acceptance. She finds herself branded as a nerd in this graphic novel.

Ghost By: Jason Reynolds (grades 5-8)

Castle Crenshaw is always running away from his problems-- whether it's from his difficult home life, bullies, or danger. That's until he meets Coach, an ex track star who inspires him to use his talents in positive ways

The Secret Garden By: Frances Hodgson Burnett (grades 5-8)

Mary Lennox, a sickly and contrary little girl, is orphaned to dim prospects in a gloomy English manor - her only friend is a bed-ridden boy named Colin, whose prospects may be dimmer than hers. But when Mary finds the key to a Secret Garden, the magical powers of transformation fall within her reach.

Crash By: Jerry Spinelli (grades 6-7)

John "Crash" Coogan, a seventh-grade football star, has been an aggressive person from the time he was very young; sometimes, he is too aggressive. He enjoys his rough, macho behavior until he meets an unusual neighbor who forces him to think about his life and his way of treating others.

Fast Pitch By: Nic Stone (grades 6-8)

Shenice Lockwood, captain of the Fulton Firebirds, is hyper-focused when she steps up to the plate. Nothing can stop her from leading her team to the U12 fast-pitch softball regional championship. But life has thrown some curveballs her way.

Stanford Wong Flunks Big-Time By: Lisa Yee (grades 6-8)

Stanford Wong is having a bad summer. If he flunks his summer-school English class, he won't pass sixth grade. If that happens, he won't start on the A-team. If *that* happens, his friends will abandon him and Emily Ebers won't like him anymore. And if *THAT* happens, his life will be over.

The Summer Before Boys By: Nora Raleigh Baskin (grades 6-8)

Julia and Eliza are best friends. Julia's mother is serving in the National Guard in Iraq, and Julia spends all of her time trying not to think about what could happen. So the girls lose themselves in their summer, hanging out at the resort where Eliza's father works. But when they meet a new boy, neither of them is prepared for how it impacts their friendship.

The Unteachables By: Gordan Korman (grades 6-8)

The Unteachables are a notorious class of misfits, delinquents, and academic train wrecks. Like Aldo, with anger management issues; Parker, who can't read; Kiana, who doesn't even belong in the class—or any class; and Elaine (rhymes with pain). The Unteachables have been removed from the student body and isolated in room 117.

The Last Cuentista By: Donna Barba Higuera (grades 6-9)

Petra's dreams of being a storyteller are seemingly dashed when a comet threatens to wipe out life on Earth. But Petra and her family are some of the chosen few to travel to a new life and planet.

Tiger Eyes By: Judy Blume (grades 7-9)

Davey has been uprooted to live with family in Los Alamos, New Mexico after the death of her father in a shooting. Confused and angry, she meets the Mysterious Wolf, possibly the only person in the world who can understand her.

Unwind By: Neal Schusterman (grades 7-12)

Fast-forward to the future, after the Second Civil War. According to new laws, life is inviolable from the moment of birth until age 13. Between the ages of 13 and 18, however, parents can have their child "unwound," a process by which the child's organs are transplanted into different donors so that life doesn't technically end.

The Giver By: Lois Lowry (grades 8-12)

Jonas's world is perfect. Everything is under control. There is no war or fear of pain. There are no choices. Every person is assigned a role in the community. But Jonas has been chosen for something special. When his selection leads him to an unnamed man—the man called only the Giver—he begins to sense the dark secrets that underlie the fragile perfection of his world.

The Skin I'm In By: Sharon Flake (grades 8-12)

Maleeka Madison is a strong student who has had enough of being teased about her "too black" skin and handmade clothes. So when she starts seventh grade, she decides to adopt a sassier attitude and a tougher circle of friends. The last thing she expects is to get "messed up" with another "freak," but that's exactly what happens. After a new teacher, whose face is disfigured from a skin disease, enters her life, will Maleeka be able to learn to love the skin she's in?

Code Talker: A Novel About the Navajo Marines in World War II By: Joseph Bruchac (grade 9)

After being taught in a boarding school run by whites that Navajo is a useless language, Ned Begay and other Navajo men are recruited by the Marines to become Code Talkers, sending messages during World War II in their native tongue.

Ungifted By: Gordan Korman (grades 9-12)

The word gifted has never been applied to a kid like Donovan Curtis. It's usually more like Don't try this at home. So when the troublemaker pulls a major prank at his middle school, he thinks he's finally gone too far. But thanks to a mix-up by one of the administrators, instead of getting in trouble, Donovan is sent to the Academy of Scholastic Distinction (ASD), a special program for gifted and talented students.

**Next to each title is a range of grade levels indicating the typical interest level; not a reading level.*