



# BOYERTOWN AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

MIDDLE SCHOOL EAST

**Safety & Well-Being   Acceptance & Respect   Communication & Collaboration   Learning & Growth**

*To cultivate an exceptional, innovative learning community that enables all students to succeed in a changing world.*

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May 2025

Dear Parents/Guardians and Prospective Grade 8 Students:

This summer, you are required to select a book for a summer reading requirement from a short, carefully chosen list of interesting and high-quality novels. The purpose of the summer reading is to continue the development of your reading strategies and to support vocabulary enrichment as well as spark your interest in some great books.

This summer reading will prepare you for thoughtful discussion in your English/Language Arts 8 class as you begin your eighth-grade year. You are required to select one of the titles from the books described on the back of this letter. These are all popular books and are available in a variety of places. We have contacted the Boyertown Public Library as well as local booksellers to ask them to have these books in stock.

Although it is not necessary, we encourage you to buy the book that you select so that you can make notes in it and highlight interesting parts. It is important that you have a solid understanding of the characters, settings, conflicts, and plot in the book that you choose, since you will be using it in class discussions and activities. (So, if you are wondering, “Does this count?” It does!)

As you read your book, we also encourage you to complete the summer reading graphic organizer to write down your thinking. Click [here](#) for the link to the organizer.

When you return to school for the new school year, remember to bring your book with you. We look forward to kicking off the year with great discussions about your summer reading!

From One Reader to Another,

Mike Stoudt  
Assistant Superintendent

Andrew T. Maoury  
Principal, MS East



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### Book Descriptions for Prospective Grade 8 Students

Choose one of the following:

***Summer of Broken Things* — Margaret Peterson Haddix**

(Lexile: 710)

Fourteen-year-old Avery Armisted and sixteen-year-old Kayla Butts could not be more opposite. The two girls were friends as little kids, but that's ancient history now. It's a huge surprise when Avery's father offers to bring Kayla along on a summer trip to Spain. There, the two uncover a secret their families had hidden from both of them their entire lives. Can the girls put aside their differences and work through it together? Or will the lies and betrayal only push them—and their families—farther apart?

***Posted* — John David Anderson**

(Lexile: 750)

When cell phones are banned at Branton Middle School, Frost and his friends Deedee, Wolf, and Bench come up with a new way to communicate: leaving sticky notes for each other all around the school. It catches on, and soon all the kids in school are leaving notes—though for every kind and friendly one, there is a cutting and cruel one as well. In the middle of this, a new girl named Rose arrives at school and sits at Frost's lunch table. Rose is not like anyone else at Branton Middle School, and it's clear that the close circle of friends Frost has made for himself won't easily hold another. As the sticky-note war escalates, and the pressure to choose sides mounts, Frost soon realizes that after this year, nothing will ever be the same.

***Black Duck* — Janet Taylor Lisle**

(Lexile: 790)

It is spring 1929, and Prohibition is in full swing. So, when Ruben and Jeddy find a dead body washed up on the shore of their small coastal Rhode Island town, they are sure it has something to do with smuggling liquor. Soon the boys, along with Jeddy's strong-willed sister, Marina, are drawn in, suspected by rival bootlegging gangs of taking something crucial off the dead man. Then Ruben meets the daring captain of the Black Duck, the most elusive smuggling craft of them all, and it isn't long before he's caught in a war between two of the most dangerous prohibition gangs.

***When* — Victoria Laurie**

(Lexile: 820)

Maddie Fynn is a shy girl cursed with an eerie, intuitive ability: she sees a series of unique digits hovering above the foreheads of each person she encounters. Maddie and her family realize that these mysterious digits are actually death dates, and just like birthdays, everyone has one. Forced by her mother to use her ability to make extra money, Maddie identifies the quickly approaching death date of one client's young son, but because her ability only allows her to see the when and not the how, she's unable to offer any more insight. When the boy goes missing on that exact date, law enforcement turns to Maddie. Soon, Maddie is entangled in a homicide investigation, and more young people disappear and are later found murdered. A suspect for the investigation, a target for the murderer, and attracting the attention of a mysterious young admirer who may be connected to it all, Maddie's whole existence is about to be turned upside down. Can she right things before it's too late?

***Westfallen* — Ann and Ben Brashares**

(Lexile: 570)

Henry, Frances, and Lukas are neighbors, and they used to be best friends. But in middle school, they go their separate ways. When they come together again for the funeral of a pet gerbil, the three ex-friends make a mind-blowing discovery: a radio, buried in Henry's backyard, that allows them to talk to another group of kids in the same town...in the same backyard...eighty years in the past. The kids in 1944 want to know about the future: Are there laser guns? Flying cars? Jetpacks, at least? Most of all, they want to know about the outcome of the world war that their dad and brothers are fighting in. Though Henry is cautious—he's seen movies about what happens when you disrupt the fabric of time—soon the present-day kids are sending their new friends on a mission to rescue a doomed candy store. What harm could that do? But one change leads to another, and when the six friends alter history in the biggest way possible, it's up to them to change it back.