



BOYERTOWN AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

MIDDLE SCHOOL WEST

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.

May 2024

Dear Parents/Guardians and Prospective Grade 7 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 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 7 class as you begin your seventh 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, setting, and plot in the book that you choose since you will be using it in class discussions and activities. (So, if you were wondering, "Does this count?" It does!)

As you read your book, some key ideas you may want to remember:

Highlight parts that you want to discuss or share when you return to school.

Make note of any interesting or unknown vocabulary words.

Question the author. Write your questions in the margin as a strategy to help you better understand the plot.

Make predictions as you read and revise your predictions as you learn more.

Make use of your inferring skills as you read since most authors have messages that are not easily recognized as part of the plot...what is the theme of your novel?

When you return to school in fall, 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,

Michael R. Stoudt
Asst. Superintendent

Amy Dombrowski
Principal, MS West



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Book Descriptions for Prospective Grade 7 Students

Choose one of the following:

***Ghost* — Jason Reynolds**

(Lexile: 730)

Running. That's all that Ghost (real name Castle Cranshaw) has ever known. But never for a track team. Nope, his game has always been ball. But when Ghost impulsively challenges an elite sprinter to a race -- and wins -- the Olympic medalist track coach sees he has something: crazy natural talent. Thing is, Ghost has something else: a lot of anger, and a past that he is trying to outrun. Can Ghost harness his raw talent for speed and meld with the team, or will his past finally catch up to him?

***Restart* — Gordon Korman**

(Lexile: 730)

Chase Ambrose doesn't remember falling off the roof. He doesn't remember hitting his head. In fact, he doesn't remember anything. He wakes up in a hospital room and suddenly has to learn his whole life over again ... starting with his own name. Okay, he's Chase. But who is Chase? Soon he's hearing stories of the alpha jock and bully who held a reign of terror over an entire school. Is that the person he was ... and is destined to be again? Is it possible to restart?

***Rules* — Cynthia Lord**

(Lexile: 780)

Twelve-year-old Catherine has conflicting feelings about her younger brother, David, who is autistic. While she loves him, she is also embarrassed by his behavior and feels neglected by their parents. In an effort to keep life on an even keel, Catherine creates rules for him (It's okay to hug Mom but not the clerk at the video store). Then Catherine meets and befriends Jason, a nonverbal paraplegic who uses a book of pictures to communicate. She begins to understand that normal is difficult and perhaps unnecessary, to define.

***Heart of a Champion* — Carl Deuker**

(Lexile: 650)

On the day Seth Barham met Jimmy Winter, his life changed. Seth had been an unfocused, confused pre-teen who had never come to terms with his father's death when he was seven. He meets Jimmy in a park as Jimmy's overbearing father is putting his son through intense baseball drills. As their friendship develops, Jimmy's intensity and self-assurance on the playing field spills over into Seth's life, helping him to blossom as a student and a baseball player.

***The Uglies* — Scott Westerfeld**

(Lexile: 770)

Tally has grown up in a post-apocalyptic world where, at the age of 16, everyone is given an operation that makes their faces and bodies perfect. Before the operation they are known as "uglies," and after as "pretties." After the operation they live in New Pretty Town. Tally can't wait. Shortly before her 16th birthday she befriends Shay, who tells her about the Smoke, a secret community of those who refuse the operation. When Shay runs away to join the Smoke, Tally is given a choice by the Specials, the secret police: help them find the Smoke and betray her



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friend, or remain an ugly forever.

***Stormbreaker* — Anthony Horowitz**

(Lexile: 670)

Alex Rider's world is turned upside down when he discovers that his guardian uncle has been murdered. The 14-year-old makes one discovery after another until he is sucked into his uncle's undercover world. Alex's mission is to complete his uncle's last assignment: to discover the secret that Herod Sayle is hiding behind his generous donation of one of his supercomputers to every school in the country.