Summer Reading List 2018
Going Into 9th Grade

Please select and read TWO from the following list by the first day of school:

*Wintergirls* by Anderson, Laurie Halse  
Lexile 730

Eighteen-year-old Lia comes to terms with her best friend's death from anorexia as she struggles with the same disorder.

*The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian* by Alexie, Sherman  
Lexile 600

Talented Arnold Spirit leaves the reservation school to go to an academically superior one located many miles away. How he copes with this change, both at school and on the reservation, is realistic, thought-provoking, and laugh-out-loud funny. National Book Award Young People’s Literature 2007

*Proof: A Play* by Auburn, David  
Lexile 1000

This play explores the unknowability of love and the mysteries of mathematics. Pulitzer Prize, Drama 2001

*Hate List* by Brown, Jennifer  
Lexile 760

Outsiders Nick and Valerie create a “hate list” to vent their anger at the students who bully them, but Nick takes the list too far. Valerie tries to stop him, but she herself is shot before Nick kills himself. What we are left with is a heart-wrenching journey of guilt, hate, fear and self-discovery as Valerie returns to school to finish her senior year.

*City of Bones* by Clare, Cassandra  
Lexile 740

Clary Fray is suddenly seeing fairies and demons and finds herself drawn into an alternate reality as a Shadowhunter, teens dedicated to saving the world. Her mother, who is the only one who knows where the Mortal Cup is hidden, disappears and Clary finds herself committed to the Shadowhunter cause. *Series*

*Shelter: A Mickey Bolitar Novel* by Coben, Harlan  
Lexile 760

After witnessing his father's death and sending his Mom to rehab, Mickey is forced to live with his estranged uncle and enter a new high school where, after a few weeks, his new girlfriend vanishes without a trace. As Mickey follows Ashley’s trail to find what happened to her, he enters a world of conspiracy and danger and discovers that nothing is as it seems.

*Dash & Lily’s Book of Dares* by Cohn, Rachel, and David Levitan  
Lexile 860

While perusing his favorite bookstore, Dash stumbles across a hidden red journal. After accepting the dare written within the journal, he and Lily begin a mysterious, witty scavenger hunt. As they get to know each other only through the journal entries, they both wonder if they should meet.

*Matched* by Condie, Ally  
Lexile 680

Cassia has always had complete trust in the Society to make decisions for her, but just as she is being paired with her ideal mate, a second face flashes on the screen. Cassia begins to doubt the Society's infallibility as she tries to decide which man she truly loves. *Series*
Summer Reading List 2018

**Going Into 9th Grade**

*Deadline* by Crutcher, Chris  
Lexile 880

Eighteen-year-old Ben Wolf has been given less than a year to live, but he chooses not to tell anyone so his senior year will be as normal as possible. This surprisingly humorous story tracks that final year as Ben goes out for football, finds romance, and realizes that his secret has a serious impact on others.

*Last Shot: A Final Four Mystery* by Feinstein, John  
Lexile 760

After winning a basketball reporting contest, eighth graders Stevie and Susan Carol are sent to cover the Final Four tournament, where they discover that a talented player is being blackmailed into throwing the final game.

*Bunheads* by Flack, Sophie  
Lexile 770

A young dancer must decide if she wants to continue to devote her whole life to ballet when a handsome musician enters the picture. The author danced with the New York City Ballet for nine years and gives the reader an authentic glimpse into the world of ballet.

*Hotel on the Corner of Bitter and Sweet* by Ford, Jamie  
Lexile 850

A story of commitment and enduring hope, this novel is set in Seattle during one of the most conflicted and volatile times in American history. Henry, a Chinese American, raised by a fiercely nationalistic father, and Keiko, a young Japanese American, develop a bond of friendship and innocent love that transcends time and the long-standing prejudices of their Old World ancestors.

*Beautiful Creatures* by Garcia, Kami, and Margaret Stohl  
Lexile 660

After graduation, Ethan cannot wait to move out of his unexciting small town of Gatlin, South Carolina. When Lena moves into town, he is immediately drawn to her, and his unusual dreams of saving her leads him to believe he has a psychic connection with her. *Series*

*Welding With Children* by Gautreaux, Tim  
Lexile 650

Set in the hot days and nights of Louisiana, these eleven short fiction stories will make you laugh, cry, and marvel as ordinary people try to survive what life throws at them, whether it be memory loss, a crazed bull, or a thief with a big blade and bad intentions.

*Soul Enchilada* by Gill, David Macinnis  
Lexile 720

El Paso teen Eunice “Bug” Smoot’s grandfather sold his soul to the devil for a Cadillac and reneged on the deal. When a demon repo agent shows up, she finds out that her deceased grandfather pledged both the car and her soul as collateral . . . and she has sixty hours to figure out what to do.

*Clarity* by Harrington, Kim  
Lexile 580

Sixteen-year-old Clare Fern, a member of a family of psychics, helps the mayor and a skeptical detective solve a murder in a Cape Cod town during the height of tourist season . . . and her brother is a prime suspect.

*Charles and Emma: The Darwins’ Leap of Faith* by Heiligman, Deborah  
Lexile 1020

Heiligman reveals a personal look at the life and love of the man whose ideas have caused a stir in the scientific and religious communities since the 1800s. Charles Darwin, a brilliant man who was unsure of his faith in God, married Emma Wedgewood who was devoutly religious. The story of their lives together is one filled with science, religion, history, but -- most of all -- love. Michael L. Printz Honor Book 2010
Summer Reading List 2018
Going Into 9th Grade

A Farewell to Arms by Hemingway, Ernest
Lexile 730
A British nurse and an American ambulance driver fall in love during World War I.

Dune by Herbert, Frank
Lexile 800
The story of a young prince, Paul Atreides, scion of a star-crossed dynasty, and of his journey from boy to warrior to ruler of a dying planet destined to become a paradise regained. Series

The Great Wide Sea by Herlong, M. H.
Lexile 660
Still mourning the death of their mother, three brothers go with their father on an extended sailing trip off the Florida Keys and have a harrowing adventure at sea.

Slam by Hornby, Nick
Lexile 740
When fifteen-year-old skateboarder Sam “Slam” Jones learns that his ex-girlfriend is pregnant, he turns to the only person he feels can help — his hero, skating legend Tony Hawk. Since Tony is only a poster and does not offer answers, it is up to Sam, thrust suddenly into maturity, to figure out the right thing to do.

The Name of the Star by Johnson, Maureen
Lexile 710
An American girl, Rory, enrolls in a London boarding school for her senior year of high school and encounters a suspenseful ghost mystery closely tied to the Jack the Ripper murders of old.

In 1854, when the existence of bacteria and the concept of waterborne diseases are still unknown, two men, one a physician and the other a clergyman, successfully trace the source of a cholera epidemic to a contaminated well in an impoverished part of London.

Blood and Chocolate by Klause, Annette Curtis
Lexile 720
Having fallen for a human boy, a beautiful teenage werewolf must battle both her packmates and the fear of the townspeople to decide where she belongs and with whom.

Delights & Shadows: Poems by Kooser, Ted
Lexile 990
This collection of poems by former Poet Laureate of the United States describes the habits and struggles of daily life.

Mao’s Last Dancer by Li, Cunxin
Lexile 810
The autobiography of Houston Ballet soloist Li Cunxin details his rise from poverty in Communist China to dance stardom and a defection that caused an international incident.

Lone Survivor: The Eyewitness Account of Operation Redwing and the Lost Heroes of SEAL Team 10 by Luttrell, Marcus Lexile NP
American Navy SEAL and team leader Marcus Luttrell tells his story of the loss of his teammates in July 2005 along the mountainous Afghanistan-Pakistan border to al-Quida insurgents.
Summer Reading List 2018

Going Into 9th Grade

The Spellman Files by Lutz, Lisa  
Lexile 770

Izzy Spellman, an irrepressible twenty-eight-year-old sleuth, works for her parents’ San Francisco PI firm. The dysfunctional and relentlessly nosy Spellman clan spends as much time spying on each other as they do working their cases. Alex Award 2008. Series

Finnikin of the Rock by Marchetta, Melina  
Lexile 780

Finnikin was a child when the royal family of Lumatere was brutally murdered and replaced by an imposter. Now on the cusp of manhood, he reluctantly joins forces with an enigmatic young novice and fellow-exile who claims that her dark dreams will lead them to a surviving royal child and a way to regain the throne of Lumatere.

Jellicoe Road by Marchetta, Melina  
Lexile 820

Abandoned by her drug-addicted mother at the age of eleven, high school student Taylor Markham struggles with her identity and family history at a boarding school in Australia.

Wake by McMann, Lisa  
Lexile 530

Despite her best efforts to avoid it, Janie is drawn into other people’s dreams. While sometimes this can be funny, it can also be terrifying since not all dreams are sweet. Series

Tiger Moon by Michaelis, Antonia  
Lexile 820

Sold to be the eighth wife of a rich and cruel merchant, Safia, also called Raka, tries to escape her fate by telling stories of Farhad the thief, his companion Nitish the white tiger, and their travels across India to retrieve a famous jewel that will save a kidnapped princess from becoming the bride of a demon king. Batchelder Award Honors 2009

Private Peaceful by Morpurgo, Michael  
Lexile 860

Thomas Peaceful was only fifteen when he joined the British Forces in World War I to fight with his older brother. One unexpected horror separates them.

Monster by Myers, Walter Dean  
Lexile 670

While on trial as an accomplice to a murder, sixteen-year-old Steve Harmon records his experiences in prison and in the courtroom in the form of a film script as he tries to come to terms with the course his life has taken.

The Best of Ogden Nash by Nash, Ogden  
Lexile NP

This delightful book of rhythm and rhyme combines magical word use by the renowned master of light humorous verse. The book is edited by the poet’s daughter, Linell Nash Smith.

A Child Called “It” by Pelzer, Dave  
Lexile 850

David Pelzer, victim of one of the worst child abuse cases in the history of California, tells the story of how he survived his mother’s brutality and triumphed over his past.

True Believer by Sparks, Nicolas  
Lexile 880

Successful Manhattan science journalist Jeremy Marsh is invited to the tiny town of Boone Creek, North Carolina, to investigate a sighting of strange lights in a local cemetery and meets librarian Lexie Darnell, who causes the smitten Jeremy to make some difficult choices about his life.
In all the years she has watched the wolves in the woods behind her house, Grace has been particularly drawn to an unusual yellow-eyed wolf who, in his turn, has been watching her with increasing intensity.

Badly in need of self-confidence and a change of image, high school nerd Jeremy Heere swallows a pill-sized super computer that is supposed to help him get whatever he wants.