

8th Grade Summer Reading 2017

Four Rivers Charter Public School

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Each student reads two books in preparation for eighth grade.

Students are expected to finish both books by the second day of school. In the first week of school, students will engage in small and large group discussions and writing assignments based on the books. **Happy Reading!**

Each student will read ONE of the following:

***Forever, or a Long, Long Time*, by Caela Carter**

This is a story about two foster children who want desperately to believe that they've found their forever home. Flora and her brother, Julian, don't believe they were born. They've lived in so many foster homes, they can't remember where they came from. And even now that they've been adopted, Flora still struggles to believe in forever. So along with their new mother, Flora and Julian begin a journey to go back and discover their past—for only then can they really begin to build their future.

***The Boy Who Harnessed the Wind*, by William Kamkwamba**

William Kamkwamba was born in Malawi, a country where magic ruled and modern science was mystery. It was also a land withered by drought and hunger, and a place where hope and opportunity were hard to find. But William had read about windmills in a book called *Using Energy*, and he dreamed of building one that would bring electricity and water to his village and change his life and the lives of those around him. His neighbors may have mocked him and called him misala—crazy—but William was determined to show them what a little grit and ingenuity could do. Here is the remarkable story about human inventiveness and its power to overcome crippling adversity. *The Boy Who Harnessed the Wind* will inspire anyone who doubts the power of one individual's ability to change their community and better the lives of those around them.

***The Secret Life of Bees*, by Sue Monk Kidd**

Set in South Carolina in 1964, this is the tale of Lily Owens, a fourteen-year-old girl who is haunted by the memory of her late mother. To escape her lonely life and troubled relationship with her father, Lily flees with Rosaleen, her caregiver and only friend, to a South Carolina town that holds the secret to her mother's past. Taken in by the intelligent and independent Boatwright sisters, Lily finds solace in their mesmerizing world of beekeeping and learns about herself as she seeks out information about her mother in the complicated times of 1960's South.

Then, choose ONE (or more!) of the following books to read:

***Ten Miles Past Normal*, by Frances O'Roark Dowell**

Janie Gorman wants to be normal. The problem with that: she's not. She's smart and creative and a little bit funky. She's also an unwilling player in her parents' modern-hippy, let's-live-on-a-goat-farm experiment. This, to put it simply, is not helping Janie reach that "normal target." She has to milk goats every day...and endure her mother's pseudo celebrity in the homemade-life, crunchy mom blogosphere.

More on the back...

Goodbye the days of frozen lasagna and suburban living, hello crazy long bus ride to high school and

total isolation — and hovering embarrassments of all kinds. Janie was going for normal, but she missed her mark by about ten miles...and we mean that as a compliment.

***Ender's Game*, by Orson Card**

Set in a future where Earth has been attacked by aliens twice, the government needs to protect a world living in fear of another invasion. They are breeding and training young geniuses to be military commanders. None of these youngsters are as intelligent as Ender Wiggins though. He dominates the games that make up their early training. But Ender must deal with life at the Battle School, separation from his sister, his fear of his older brother, and the violence in his nature to become the military commander who can save humanity.

***The Canning Season*, by Polly Horvath**

One night out of the blue, thirteen-year-old Ratchet Clark's ill-natured mother tells her that Ratchet will be leaving their Pensacola apartment momentarily to take the train up north. There she will spend the summer with her aged relatives Penpen and Tilly, inseparable twins who couldn't look more different from each other. Staying at their secluded house, Ratchet is treated to a passel of strange family history and local lore, along with heaps of generosity and care that she has never experienced before. Also, Penpen has recently espoused a new philosophy — whatever shows up on your doorstep, you have to let in. Through thick wilderness, down forgotten, bear-ridden roads, come a variety of characters, drawn to Penpen and Tilly's open door. It is with vast reservations that the cautious Tilly allows these unwelcome guests in. But it turns out that unwelcome guests may bring the greatest gifts.

***Touching Spirit Bear*, by Ben Mikelson**

Within Cole Matthews lie anger, rage, and hate. Cole has been stealing, fighting, and lying for years. His attack on a classmate has left the boy with permanent physical and deep psychological damage and Cole in the biggest trouble of his life. He is banished to a remote Alaskan island as an alternative to a prison sentence. There, he learns to cope with the natural world, face his own anger, and begin a healing process.

***Divergent*, by Veronica Roth** (followed by the next two books, *Insurgent* and *Allegiant*)

In Beatrice Prior's dystopian Chicago, society is divided into five factions, each dedicated to the cultivation of a particular virtue—Candor (the honest), Abnegation (the selfless), Dauntless (the brave), Amity (the peaceful), and Erudite (the intelligent). On an appointed day of every year, all sixteen-year-olds must select the faction to which they will devote the rest of their lives. For Beatrice, the decision is between staying with her family and being who she really is—she can't have both. So she makes a choice that surprises everyone, including herself. Beatrice also has a secret, one she's kept hidden from everyone because she's been warned it can mean death. As she discovers a growing conflict that threatens to unravel her seemingly perfect society, she also learns that her secret might help her save those she loves . . . or it might destroy her.

***Airborn*, by Kenneth Oppel** (followed by the next two books in the trilogy, *Skybreaker* and *Starclimber*)

Matt Cruse is a cabin boy on the Aurora, a huge airship that sails hundreds of feet above the ocean, ferrying wealthy passengers from city to city. It is the life Matt's always wanted, feeling lighter than air. One night he meets a dying balloonist who speaks of beautiful creatures drifting through the skies. It is only after Matt meets the balloonist's granddaughter that he realizes that the man's ravings may, in fact, have been true, and that the creatures are completely real and utterly mysterious.

FOUR RIVERS CHARTER PUBLIC SCHOOL

Grade 8 Supply List 2017-18

Welcome to 8th grade! We are excited about our work together in the upcoming year. You will use a variety of tools, materials, and resources this year. Some of them we will provide in class, and some you need to provide by the time we start core classes. Please use the list below to be sure that you have all of the required items. We highly encourage you to re-use! If you have a binder, paper, pencils, notebooks, or other items from last year that you can use this year, please do so. We value the conservation of resources. Thank you for taking responsibility for getting yourself ready for your 8th grade work.

Sincerely, Your 8th Grade Teachers

Ms. Cummins, Ms. Falco, Ms. Farwell, Mr. Guillaume, Ms. MacNeish, Seña, and Ms. Wexler

For Humanities (Ms. Cummins and Ms. MacNeish):

- **NOTEBOOKS:**
 - 2 Spiral bound notebooks with perforated pages that can tear out (one for English and one for Social Studies), OR 1 Spiral bound notebook with 2 sections in it!
 - 1 Black and white composition book (can use Writer's Notebook from last year if desired)
- **FOLDERS:**
 - 2 Folders with sturdy pockets (one for English and one for Social Studies)
- **BINDER:**
 - 1 binder (feel free to reuse one). If purchasing new, we recommend a 2 to 3 inch 3-ring binder with pockets on both inside covers. This will hold your Notebooks, Folders, and all your Work.

For Math & Science (Ms. Farwell and Mr. Guillaume):

- **NOTEBOOKS:**
 - 2 Spiral Bound and Hole-Punched **Graph Paper** Notebooks OR hole punched loose leaf **graph** paper (approximately 200 pages total)
- **FOLDERS:**
 - One sturdy folder to transport homework to and from school
- **BINDER:**
 - 1 binder (feel free to reuse one). If purchasing new, we recommend a 2 inch 3-ring binder with pockets on both inside covers. This will hold your Notebooks and all your Work.
- (OPTIONAL) A scientific calculator (it must have at least a square root key). Graphing calculator NOT necessary. A scientific calculator should cost between \$10-15. We also have these available in class--students may sign a calculator out on loan for the year.

~ **More On Back** ~

For Spanish (Seña):

- One black and white composition notebook, (NOT spiral bound!)
- Smart phone or other device for voice recording. This will be used once or twice a month in class and Seña will let you know the day before to bring to class. If you do not own a device, that is absolutely fine. We can work around it.
- Water bottle, filled prior to arrival in class.

For All Classes:

- Homework Folder: 1 Folder with sturdy pockets that will hold homework
- Pencils, blue/black pens, highlighters
- Pencil Case
- Block eraser (pencil top erasers tend to wear out quickly)
- Book bag or backpack of a size that will fit inside your locker
- A water bottle is essential to limit time away from class

NOTE: *A weekly planner for each student will be supplied by the school.*

Other resources provided in classrooms: clipboards, rulers, tape, glue, scissors, pencil sharpeners, staplers, markers, highlighters, colored pencils, index cards, post-it notes, and protractors. Students do not need to individually acquire these items.

HOPE YOU HAVE A GREAT SUMMER!