

2017

NORTHBROOK
DISTRICT 28

Teaching Learning Caring



Dear Parents and Guardians,

Happy summer! After a rigorous school year, we can all agree that this is a time to relax and recharge with family and friends, doing some of our favorite summertime activities. However, without the structure of “school” during these next few months, reading, unfortunately, can be pushed aside all-too-easily for other activities, causing students to lose some of the reading skills gained from the previous school year. To help avoid this “summer slide,” we encourage you to promote reading as a routine summer activity to help keep your child’s brain in a reading-and-thinking rhythm.

Incoming eighth grade students are expected to **read and annotate** the short story, “And Summer is Gone” and **read at least two (2)** of the *Road Trip* books listed on the back of this letter. We are confident in the high-interest appeal of these books and in the variety of options for student choice. All of these books can all be found at Northbrook Public Library, The Book Bin, Barnes & Noble, as well as on Amazon. Students can read these books in traditional book format, electronically, or via audiobook listening. Plus, if you feel inclined, we encourage you to read alongside your child making your own family book club!

Use your mobile device to scan this QR code that is linked to the 2017 Summer Reading website. Once there, you will find:



- book trailers and author interviews.
- a form for students to complete after finishing each of the books read.
- the short story, “And Summer is Gone,” which should be printed out, read, and annotated, showing students’ thinking.

Furthermore, reading does not have to stop with our list. The Northbrook Public Library continues to be an excellent resource; they have designated media specialists for the young adult audience as well as their own thoughtful summer reading program. Whether it is twenty minutes a day before bed or a few hours on the weekend in a hammock, we want our incoming students to truly read (not “fake read”) in order to maintain reading stamina and skills...and to simply enjoy some wonderful journeys!

If you have any questions, please let us know. We look forward to working with your child come August and meeting you at Open House in September.

Respectfully,

The Eighth Grade Language Arts Team,

Heather Corral, Nicole Gas, Wendy Hicks, Michael LaCerra, Jenni Moran, & Joan Stevenson

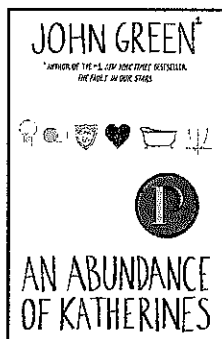
2017 Summer Reading: The Road Trip

Read at least two
(2) of these books
and the short
story, "And
Summer is Gone."



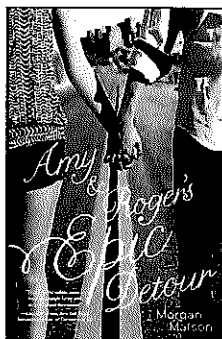
An Abundance of Katherines by John Green

Colin Singleton, child prodigy who has loved and lost 19 girlfriends named Katherine, takes an aimless road trip trying understand why he is always dumped. He tries to turn his 19 failed encounters into a formula that will predict the outcome of all relationships and elevate him to genius status in a story with romance, humor, irony, and complex math.



Amy and Roger's Epic Detour by Morgan Matson

Amy Curry's father recently died in a car accident, and she hates her life. Terribly timed for Amy's senior year, her mom decides to move from California to Connecticut to start anew. Amy wants to escape from it all by driving cross-country from the home she's always known toward her new life.



Hope Was Here by Joan Bauer

Not sure what to expect, 16-year-old Hope and her aunt move from Brooklyn to small-town Wisconsin to run the local diner. And as Hope starts to make her place at the diner, she also finds herself caught up in G.T.'s (the diner's owner) campaign—particularly his visions for the future. This book is filled with heart, charm, and good old-fashioned fun.



Jerk, California by Jonathan Friesen

Plagued by Tourette's syndrome and a stepfather who despises him, Sam meets an old man in his small Minnesota town who sends him on a road trip designed to help him discover the truth about his life and his dead father. Meeting unknown relatives, Sam fills in some of the gaps that were missing from his past, uncovers some lies, and develops a meaningful relationship with Naomi.



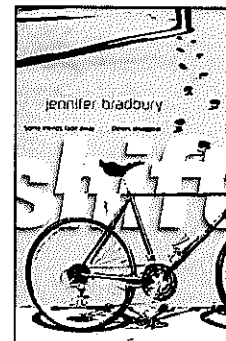
Let's Get Lost by Adi Alsaid

Five strangers on countless adventures with one epic way to get lost. Four teens drive across the country and have only one thing in common: a girl named Leila, who crashes into their lives in her absurdly red car at the moment they need someone the most.



Shift by Jennifer Bradbury

Best friends, Chris and Win, head out on a cross-country cycling adventure after high school graduation. Now Chris is being questioned by the FBI; Win has disappeared. Alternating chapters flash back to details of the trip, then forward to the private investigation in a mystery built on vignettes of realistic encounters along the way.



We Were Here by Matt de la Peña

Miguel struggles to forgive himself for a tragic event that changed his life and his family forever, but luckily a judge gave Miguel a year in a group home—said he had to write in a journal to keep his thoughts. There, he befriends two boys with their own issues, and they organize an escape that takes them on an adventure up and down the California coast trying to survive and find themselves.



Whirligig by Paul Fleischman

Moving to Chicago and attending a private high school, Brent is not welcomed like he had hoped. After a party where Brent feels rejected by the popular crowd, he meets a tragic fate on his way home and is forced to find meaning in life. Brent finds forgiveness and a new hope for the future by traveling to the four corners of the U.S., experimenting with his new skills in carpentry.

