



June 2016

Dear Parents/Guardians of Students Entering Grades 9-10,

Summer Reading is a great opportunity for students to enjoy literature and strengthen the literacy skills necessary for academic achievement. Please find enclosed a list of Summer Reading books that are appropriate for your child's grade level. Visit the Haverhill Public Schools website for the lists of all approved books and reading logs:

<http://www.haverhill-ps.org/curriculum-department/reading-lists/>

Students are required to read at least **two** books, one fiction and one non-fiction, but are encouraged to read as many as possible. Books are available at the Haverhill Public Library and at local bookstores, such as Barnes & Noble. Many of these titles are also available as eBooks and/or audiobooks.

In September students will be given an assignment related to their summer reading. Teachers create assignments that address plot, character, setting, theme, conflict, etc. Students may be asked to write a brief essay, interview each other about their books, present a book report to the class, or create a project (i.e., book jacket, book cube, collage, poster). To help with these assignments, students are encouraged to take notes as they read.

Please encourage your child to read as many books as possible, but bear in mind that many families rely on the Haverhill Public Library. In consideration of others, please check out only one or two books at a time, and return them as soon as possible. This will allow all children to benefit from the local public library – a wonderful resource.

Thank you for supporting our Summer Reading Program.

Happy Reading!

HAVERHILL: ENTERING GRADES 9-10 SUMMER READING LIST 2015

The list below contains summer reading selections for students entering Grades 9 and 10 at HHS. Choose at least ONE book from the fiction list, at least ONE book from the non-fiction list and read it by the start of the school year. An assignment will be given during the first two weeks of school, and this score will be averaged with your first quarter English grade. Some titles may be available in eBook or audiobook format at the public library and local bookstores.

FICTION

Openly Straight

Bill Konigsberg

Tired of being known as "the gay kid," Rafe Goldberg decides to assume a new persona when he comes east and enters an elite Massachusetts prep school. Trying to deny his identity has unexpected consequences.

Monster

Walter Dean Myers

"Monster" is what the prosecutor called 16-year-old Steve Harmon for his supposed role in the fatal shooting of a convenience-store owner. But was Steve really the lookout who gave the "all clear" to the murderer, or was he just in the wrong place at the wrong time?

Freaky Green Eyes

Joyce Carol Oates

This novel tells the story about a young girl whose life seems to be without any problems. Her father is a very famous football player and her mother is very interested in arts. But during the story the reader learns that being rich is not enough for being happy.

Ender's Game (fantasy/sci fi)

Orson Scott Card

The tale of the child-hero Ender Wiggum, who must fight a desperate battle against a deadly alien race if mankind is to survive.

Parrot In the Oven

Victor Martinez

Monolo Hernandez lives a difficult life. His father is a drug addict and a drunk. His mother cheats on his father, and his father tried to kill her. His brothers are mean to him. He thinks the only way of getting over all of this is by joining a gang, but he doesn't know if he wants to get into that kind of life.

Son of the Mob (humor)

Gordon Korman

Seventeen-year-old Vince's life is constantly complicated by the fact that he is the son of a powerful Mafia boss, a relationship that threatens to destroy his romance with the daughter of an FBI agent.

Sleeping Freshmen Never Lie

David Lubar

While navigating his first year of high school and awaiting the birth of his new baby brother, Scott loses old friends and gains some unlikely new ones as he hones his skills as a writer.

Life As We Knew It
Pfeffer

Susan Beth

When an asteroid collides with the moon, causing natural disasters, life as 16-year-old Miranda knows it will never be the same. Suddenly, things she has taken for granted electricity, news from the outside world, and three square meals a day are a thing of the past. Thanks to her mother's foresight and preparedness, Miranda and her two brothers are better off than many families in their Pennsylvania community. Yet their situation becomes more critical as other unexpected disasters arise.

An Abundance of Katherines

John Green

When it comes to relationships, Colin Singleton's type prefers girls named Katherine. Yet Colin is always getting dumped – 19 times, to be exact. On a road trip miles from home, this anagram-happy, washed-up child prodigy has \$10,000 in his pocket, a bloodthirsty hog on his trail, and an overweight best friend riding shotgun... but no Katherines. Colin is on a mission to prove The Theorem of Underlying Katherine Predictability, which he hopes will predict the future of any relationship and finally win him the girl.

The Earth, My Butt, and Other Big Round Things

Carolyn Mackler

Sophomore Virginia Shreves lives in Manhattan and attends a prestigious private school. She lives by her Fat Girl Code of Conduct. She has a budding romance with Froggy the Fourth, and her baggy clothing helps her to "hide." Her mother is an adolescent psychologist obsessed with her daughter's weight, and her father is rarely around. Told through first-person narrative, journal entries, and e-mail, Virginia's story will interest readers who are looking for a book with teen angst, a bit of romance, and a kid who is a bit like them or their friends.

A Great and Terrible Beauty

Libba Bray

A new Gothic tale of a Victorian girl's school reveals a terrible secret. At 16, Gemma must leave the only home she's known (India) when her mother kills herself under bizarre circumstances. Although she longed to see London while her family lived abroad, Gemma is disappointed to find that she's being packed off to finishing school there. At school, she stands up to the circle of girls who seem to hold the most power, while dealing with weird hallucinations and the furtive presence of the young man she first saw in Bombay on the day of her mother's death. The school and its administration hold fast to a secret about the class of 1871.

Ship Breaker**Paola Bacigalupi**

“In America's Gulf Coast region, where grounded oil tankers are being broken down for parts, Nailer, a teenage boy, works the light crew, scavenging for copper wiring just to make quota--and hopefully live to see another day. But when, by luck or chance, he discovers an exquisite clipper ship beached during a recent hurricane, Nailer faces the most important decision of his life: Strip the ship for all it's worth or rescue its lone survivor, a beautiful and wealthy girl who could lead him to a better life.” (GoodReads.com)

NON-FICTION***Steve Jobs: The Man Who Thought Different*****Karen Blumenthal**

“From the start, his path was never predictable. Steve Jobs was given up for adoption at birth, dropped out of college after one semester, and at the age of twenty, created Apple in his parents' garage with his friend Steve Wozniack.” (Source: goodreads.com)

The Greatest: Muhammad Ali**Walter Dean Myers**

This book provides an introduction to Ali's life from his childhood to the present day, focusing on his career and the controversies surrounding him. Both his talent in the boxing ring and his showmanship earned him international fame, while his refusal to accept the stereotypical role of a black athletic star in the 1960s and his membership in the Nation of Islam brought him notoriety.

The Burn Journals**Brent Runyon**

Brent Runyon was fourteen years old when he set himself on fire. In this biography, he describes that suicide attempt and his recovery over the following year.

Marching for Freedom: Walk Together Children and Don't You Grow Weary Elizabeth Partridge

Partridge examines the essential impact that children and teens had on the civil rights movement, including protests and the fifty-four mile march from Selma to Montgomery Alabama in 1965.

The Pluto Files**Neil DeGrasse Tyson**

When the Rose Center for Earth and Space at the American Museum of Natural History reclassified Pluto as an icy comet, the public was in an uproar. Neil DeGrasse Tyson explores how Pluto is entrenched in our cultural and emotional view of the solar system and why so many wish Pluto was still a planet.

Townie**Andre Dubus III**

“After their parents divorced in the 1970s, Andre Dubus III and his three siblings grew up with their overworked mother in Haverhill, a depressed mill town saturated with drugs and everyday violence. Nearby, his father, an eminent author, taught on a college campus and took the kids out on Sundays. The clash between town and gown, between the hard drinking, drugging, and fighting of "townies" and the ambitions of students debating books and ideas, couldn't have been more stark. In this unforgettable memoir, acclaimed novelist Dubus shows us how he escaped the cycle of violence and found empathy in channeling the stories of others—bridging, in the process, the rift between his father and himself” (Barnesandnoble.com).

Zeitoun**David Eggers**

This work chronicles the tribulations of Syrian-born painting contractor Abdulrahman Zeitoun, who, while aiding in rescue efforts in the wake of Hurricane Katrina, was inexplicably arrested by military personnel and swept into a bureaucratic maelstrom of civil injustices. This Kafkaesque story is sure to shock, horrify, and outrage listeners and will especially appeal to those who enjoy non-fiction survival stories. It should be required reading/listening to ensure that nothing like the events described here will ever be repeated —Joanna M. Burkhardt, Univ. of Rhode Island Libs., Providence



Haverhill Public Schools

My signature below indicates that I have received the Summer Reading list and that I understand the expectations of reading two books, one from the fiction list and one from the non-fiction list, and that I must be prepared for a related, follow-up assignment, by the return to school on August 30, 2016.

_____ / _____

Signature of Student

Printed Name

_____ / _____

Signature of Parent/Guardian

Printed Name