SUMMER READING 2016-17
Students Entering 7th or 8th Grade

This summer, students will read two books and complete two short writing assignments.

Directions:

1. All students will read *The Crossover* by Kwame Alexander, and they will write a “Vocabulary Poem” (Directions attached.)

*The Crossover* by Kwame Alexander

"With a bolt of lightning on my kicks . . . The court is SIZZLING. My sweat is DRIZZLING. Stop all that quivering. Cuz tonight I'm delivering," announces dread-locked, 12-year old Josh Bell. He and his twin brother Jordan are awesome on the court. But Josh has more than basketball in his blood, he's got mad beats, too, that tell his family's story in verse, in this fast and furious middle grade novel of family and brotherhood.

Josh and Jordan must come to grips with growing up on and off the court to realize breaking the rules comes at a terrible price, as their story's heart-stopping climax proves a game-changer for the entire family.

2. Select ONE of the following books, and complete the character analysis chart (Chart attached).

*Countdown* by Deborah Wiles

It's 1962, and it seems everyone is living in fear. Eleven-year-old Franny Chapman lives with her family in Washington, D.C., and can feel the fear of the nation in the days surrounding the Cuban Missile Crisis. Amid the pervading threat of nuclear war, Franny must face the tension between herself and her younger brother, figure out where she fits in with her family, and look beyond outward appearances. For Franny, as for all Americans, it's going to be a life-changing week.

From award-winning author Deborah Wiles, this first entry in the Sixties Trilogy tells the story of one girl with insight, warmth, and hope, set against the backdrop of one of the most politically and culturally defining periods in history.
**Fahrenheit 451** by Ray Bradbury

Nowadays firemen start fires. Fireman Guy Montag loves to rush to a fire and watch books burn up. The system was simple. Everyone understood it. Books were burning, along with the houses in which they were hidden. Then he met a seventeen-year old girl who told him of a past when people were not afraid, and a professor who told him of a future in which people could think, and Guy Montag suddenly realized what he had to do!

**The Running Dream** by Wendelin Van Draanen

Jessica thinks her life is over when she loses a leg in a car accident. She's not comforted by the news that she'll be able to walk with the help of a prosthetic leg. Who cares about walking when you live to run?

As she struggles to cope with crutches and a first cyborg-like prosthetic, Jessica feels oddly both in the spotlight and invisible. People who don't know what to say, act like she's not there. Which she could handle better if she weren't now keenly aware that she'd done the same thing herself to a girl with CP named Rosa. A girl who is going to tutor her through all the math she's missed. A girl who sees right into the heart of her.

With the support of family, friends, a coach, and her track teammates, Jessica may actually be able to run again. But that's not enough for her now. She doesn't just want to cross finish lines herself; she wants to take Rosa with her.

**The Hired Girl** by Laura Amy Schlitz

Fourteen-year-old Joan Skraggs, just like the heroines in her beloved novels, yearns for real life and true love. But what hope is there for adventure, beauty, or art on a hardscrabble farm in Pennsylvania where the work never ends? Over the summer of 1911, Joan pours her heart out into her diary as she seeks a new, better life for herself—because maybe, just maybe, a hired girl cleaning and cooking for six dollars a week can become what a farm girl could only dream of—a woman with a future.

Inspired by her grandmother’s journal, Newbery Medalist Laura Amy Schlitz brings her sharp wit and keen eye to early twentieth-century America in a comedic tour de force destined to become a modern classic. Joan’s journey from the muck of the chicken coop to the comforts of a society household in Baltimore (Electricity! Carpet sweepers! *Sending out the laundry!* ) takes its reader on an exploration of feminism and housework, religion and literature, love and loyalty, cats, hats, bunions, and burns.

**Down the Rabbit Hole (An Echo Falls Mystery)** by Peter Abrahams

Welcome to Echo Falls. Home of a thousand secrets, where Ingrid Levin-Hill, super sleuth, never knows what will happen next.

Ingrid is in the wrong place at the wrong time. Or at least her shoes are. Getting them back means getting involved in a murder investigation rivaling those solved by her idol, Sherlock Holmes, and Ingrid has enough on her plate with club soccer, school, and the plum role of Alice in the Echo Falls production of Alice in Wonderland. But much as in Alice's adventures down the rabbit hole, things in Ingrid's small town keep getting curiouser and curiouser. Her favorite director has a serious accident onstage (but is it an accident?), and the police chief is on Ingrid's tail, grilling her about everything from bike-helmet law to the color of her cleats. Echo Falls has turned into a nightmare, and Ingrid is determined to wake up.

Edgar Award-nominated novelist Peter Abrahams builds suspense as a smart young girl finds that her small town isn't nearly as safe as it seems.
Summer Reading Assignment for *The Crossover* by Kwame Alexander

In *The Crossover*, Kwame Alexander includes twelve poems that focus on words or phrases important to the story/characters:

- “cross-o-ver” (29)
- “ca-lam-i-ty” (38–39)
- “pa-tel-la ten-di-ni-tis” (48–49)
- “pul-chri-tu-di-nous” (55)
- “hy-per-ten-sion” (76)
- “i-ron-ic” (104)
- “tip-ping point” (118–119)
- “chur-lish” (142–143)
- “pro-fuse-ly” (154)
- “es-tranged” (187)
- “my-o-car-di-al in-farc-tion” (201–202)
- “star-less” (229)

All twelve poems use the same basic format.

1. The word is presented in syllables; underneath, there is a pronunciation guide in brackets and the part of speech is indicated in italics.

2. The first stanza is a dictionary definition of the word.

3. Stanzas two through four all begin with “As in:” and provide an example of the word/phrase as it applies to his life.

Using this same format, create your own vocabulary poem. Choose a word/phrase that applies to your life in a number of ways. Use the template on the back to create a draft, then type and print a final version.
Summer Reading Assignment: Students Entering Grade 7 or 8

Directions:

1. **Circle the book you read:** Fahrenheit 451  Down the Rabbit Hole  Countdown  Running Dream  Hired Girl

2. **Select 3 characters to analyze.** List a character trait for each character, and then find 2 text-based examples that demonstrate the trait. (Ask yourself: “What does the character do, think, or say that demonstrates this trait? What do other characters do, think, or say about that character?”)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Character Name</th>
<th>Character Trait</th>
<th>Text-Based Evidence #1</th>
<th>Text-Based Evidence #2</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>a.</td>
<td></td>
<td>Page # ______ Example:</td>
<td>Page # ______ Example:</td>
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<td>b.</td>
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