

Four Rivers Charter Public School

8th Grade Summer Reading ~ Summer 2012

Each student reads two books in preparation for eighth grade:

1. Everyone reads *Touching Spirit Bear*, by Ben Mikalsen
2. Choose one (or more!) of the following books to read.

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!

Tangerine, by Edward Bloor

Tangerine, Florida--once known for its citrus groves--is now an uninhabitable quagmire of muck fires and school-swallowing sinkholes. Still, twelve-year-old Paul sees the move as a way to start anew, maybe even make a name for himself in middle school soccer--despite his father's obsession with his high-school-age brother Erik's future in football. Paul is visually impaired (without his Coke bottle glasses), but it's everyone else who seems to be blind to Erik's dangerous nature.

Airborne, 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; convinced he's lighter than air, he imagines himself as buoyant as the hydrium gas that powers his ship. 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.

Ten Miles Past Normal, by Frances O'Roark Dowell

In elementary school, living on a farm was a social boon for Janie Gorman. But now that she's a high school freshman, being Farm Girl means she's different. Weird different. She's the girl who comes to school smelling like goat poop, or with hay in her hair. She desperately wants to feel she's "living large," as her best friend Sarah's older sister advocates. Janie and Sarah join the Jam Band, hoping to find a way to fit in and meet cute boys, and work together on an intriguing project about unsung heroes of the civil rights movement living in their community. What she learns helps put her embarrassment in perspective, and realize that normal is overrated.

The Future of Us, by Jay Asher

It's 1996, and Josh and Emma have been neighbors their whole lives. They've been best friends almost as long--up until last November, when everything changed. Things have been awkward ever since, but when Josh's family gets an American Online CD-ROM in the mail, his mom makes him bring it over so Emma can install it on her new computer. When they sign on, they're automatically logged onto Facebook...but Facebook hasn't been invented yet!

Josh and Emma are looking at their profiles fifteen years in the future. Their spouses, careers, homes, and status updates--it's all there. But it's not what they expected. And every time they refresh their

pages, their futures change. As they grapple with the ups and downs of what their lives hold, they're forced to confront what they're doing right--and wrong--in the present.

A Northern Light, by Jennifer Donnelly

All of Mattie Lyon's hopes and dreams are riding on her summer job at the Glennmore Hotel. She'll make enough money to go to college in the fall. She'll prove to her father that she is responsible. She'll learn how to survive in the sophisticated world beyond her dad's brokeback farm. But all her plans fall to pieces when a young woman turns up drowned in the lake. Only Mattie knows that her death is a murder. An astonishing and heartbreaking story set in 1906, this novel will take its place beside *To Kill a Mockingbird*, *Little Women*, and other classics that hark back to times of lost innocence.

Advanced Reading

Marcello in the Real World, by Francisco X. Stork

Marcelo Sandoval hears music that nobody else can hear — part of an autism-like condition that no doctor has been able to identify. But his father has never fully believed in the music or Marcelo's differences, and he challenges Marcelo to work in the mailroom of his law firm for the summer . . . to join "the real world."

There Marcelo meets Jasmine, his beautiful and surprising coworker, and Wendell, the son of another partner in the firm. He learns about competition and jealousy, anger and desire. But it's a picture he finds in a file — a picture of a girl with half a face — that truly connects him with the real world: its suffering, its injustice, and what he can do to fight.

The Book Thief, by Markus Zusak

It's just a small story really, about among other things: a girl, some words, an accordionist, some fanatical Germans, a Jewish fist-fighter, and quite a lot of thievery. . . .

Set during World War II in Germany, Markus Zusak's groundbreaking new novel is the story of Liesel Meminger, a foster girl living outside of Munich. Liesel scratches out a meager existence for herself by stealing when she encounters something she can't resist—books. With the help of her accordion-playing foster father, she learns to read and shares her stolen books with her neighbors during bombing raids as well as with the Jewish man hidden in her basement before he is marched to Dachau.

Divergent, by Veronica Roth

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. During the highly competitive initiation that follows, Beatrice renames herself Tris and struggles to determine who her friends really are—and where, exactly, a romance with a sometimes fascinating, sometimes infuriating boy fits into the life she's chosen. But Tris also has a secret, one she's kept hidden from everyone because she's been warned it can mean death. And 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. **PLEASE NOTE: this book has some advanced content.**

FOUR RIVERS CHARTER PUBLIC SCHOOL

Grade 8 Supply List 2012-13

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 and have with you on the first day of 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. Arnold, Ms. Falco, Ms. Gilbert, Ms. Wilson, and Ms. Yazwinski.

For Humanities (Ms. Wilson):

Required:

- 2 Spiral bound notebooks with perforated pages that can tear out
- 1 Black and white composition book (Can use Writer's Notebook from last year if desired)
- 2 Folders with sturdy pockets (accordion-style folders work well too)
- 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
- Set of 8 dividers with tabs (Again, feel free to reuse)

For Math & Science (Ms. Gilbert):

Required:

- 1, 3-hole punched, spiral bound notebook with graph paper
- a supply of 3-hole punched, loose leaf graph paper
- 1 clipboard
- 1 ruler with inches and centimeters
- You must have a system for organizing your paperwork in math and science. Please choose a system that works best for you. Here are some options:
 - 1, 2-inch binder with 2 dividers, OR
 - 2,2-3 inch binder with pockets on the inside 1-inch binders, OR
 - 2 folders with pockets, OR
 - an accordion style folder with at least 2 compartments, OR
 - another system of your choice

*You must be able to easily arrange the papers for a unit in chronological order and to quickly find papers within your organizational system.

Optional for Math & Science:

- A basic calculator (it must have square and square root keys). Students may purchase their own or borrow one from the school for the year

For Spanish (Ms. Arnold):

- 1 new black and white composition notebook
- 1 2-3 inch binder with pockets on the inside. You may re-use an old one.

For All Classes:

- Pencils, blue/black pens, highlighters
- Pencil Case
- Sturdy block eraser (pencil top erasers tend to wear out quickly)
- Sturdy book bag or back pack of a size that will fit inside your locker
- USB "Jump drive"/"Flash drive" (put your name on it)
- Supply of 3-hole punched, loose-leaf, lined paper
- One 2-pocket folder

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

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

HOPE YOU HAVE A GREAT SUMMER!