

Four Rivers Charter Public School ~ Summer 2015

8th Grade Summer Reading

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!**

Choose TWO (or more!) of the following books to read:

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

Thirteen-year-old Ratchet spends a summer in Maine with her eccentric great-aunts Tilly and Penpen, hearing strange stories from the past and encountering a variety of unusual and colorful characters.

***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.

***The Blue Sword*, by Robin McKinley**

Harry Crewe, an orphaned girl, bored with her sheltered life in the remote orange-growing colony of Daria comes to live in Damar, the desert country shared by the Homelanders and the secretive, magical Free Hillfolk. She discovers magic in herself when she is kidnapped by a native king with mysterious powers, who soon realizes that Harry is to become Harimad-sol, King's Rider, and carry the Blue Sword, Gonturan, which no woman has wielded since the legendary Lady Aerin bore it into battle, generations past.

***The Swiss Family Robinson*, by J.D. Wyss**

A terrible storm strands a Swiss pastor and his family on a tropical island. Luckily, the Robinsons are optimistic and inventive; with what they salvage from the wrecked ship, and the island's abundant fruits, plants, and animals, they soon adapt, each day discovering new dangers, skills, and delights in their strange new life.

***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. 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.

continued on the back...

***Tangerine*, by Edward Bloor**

Paul Fisher, a stellar soccer player despite being legally blind, finally comes into his own when his family moves to the strange town of Tangerine, Florida. This is where he finds a place to 'fit in' and realizes who his older brother and who he, himself, really are.

***Cuba 15*, by Nancy Oza**

Violet Paz has just turned 15, a pivotal birthday in the eyes of her Cuban grandmother. Fifteen is the age when a girl enters womanhood, traditionally celebrating the occasion with a quinceañero. But while Violet is half Cuban, she's also half Polish, and more importantly, she feels 100% American. Violet knows little about Cuban culture, nada about quinces, and only tidbits about the history of Cuba. So when Violet begrudgingly accepts Abuela's plans for a quinceañero—and as she begins to ask questions about her Cuban roots—cultures and feelings collide. With so many divergent views, it's not easy to know what to believe. All Violet knows is that she's got to form her own opinions, even if this jolts her family into unwanted confrontations. After all, a quince girl is supposed to embrace responsibility—and to Violet that includes understanding the Cuban heritage that binds her to a homeland she's never seen.

***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.

***A Wrinkle in Time*, by Madeline L'Engle**

Everything is wrong in Meg Murray's life. In school, her teachers think she's strange and her peers tease her about her five-year-old brother, Charles Wallace, who everyone mistakenly thinks is dumb. Not to mention that Meg wears braces and glasses and has mouse-brown hair. Much will be better in her miserable life when her father gets back. But gets back from where? Meg's physicist father had been experimenting with the fifth dimension of time travel when he mysteriously disappeared. One dark and stormy night, the family is visited by a disheveled heap of a woman named Mrs. Whatsit. Eccentric and brilliant, she will turn out to be the force who spurs on Meg, Charles Wallace, and their new friend, Calvin O'Keefe, to embark on a dangerous quest through space to find their father.

***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 Last Unicorn*, by Peter S. Beagle**

There is a unicorn who, believing she is the last of her kind in the world, sets off on a journey to discover what has happened to the others. She encounters a host of diverse characters as her journey progresses, each of them bringing her closer to her goal. Part fairy tale, part parable, the unicorn and the reader are led on a journey that is unique, challenging, and full of humor.

FOUR RIVERS CHARTER PUBLIC SCHOOL

Grade 8 Supply List 2015-16

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. Falco, Ms. Farwell, Ms. MacNeish, Ms. McCall, and Ms. Rice

For Humanities (Ms. MacNeish):

- NOTEBOOKS:
 - 2 Spiral bound notebooks with perforated pages that can tear out (one for English and one for Social Studies)
 - 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.
- DIVIDERS:
 - Set of 6 dividers with tabs (Again, feel free to reuse)

For Math & Science (Ms. Farwell):

- NOTEBOOKS:
 - 2 Spiral Bound and Hole-Punched **Graph Paper** Notebooks
- 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 to 3 inch 3-ring binder with pockets on both inside covers. This will hold your Notebooks and all your Work.
- DIVIDERS:
 - Set of 6 dividers with tabs (Again, feel free to reuse)
- A basic calculator (it must have a square root key). We also have these available in class-- students may sign a calculator out on loan for the year.

~ More On Back ~

For Spanish (Ms. Rice):

- One black and white composition notebook.
- One 2 inch binder with pockets on the inside, filled with plenty of lined paper. You may reuse an old one. This is for Spanish class only and will stay at school.
- One highlighter
- Recording device (phone or other technology) NOT MANDATORY; ONLY IF READILY AVAILABLE
- Spanish/English Dictionary (optional)

For All Classes:

- 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
- Supply of 3-hole punched, loose-leaf, lined paper
- 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, colored pencils, index cards, post-it notes, and protractors. Students do not need to individually acquire these items.

HOPE YOU HAVE A GREAT SUMMER!