



East Meadow School District

Established in 1814

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

KENNETH ROSNER
Superintendent of Schools

FRANK LUKASIK
Director of Literacy
and Funded Programs

June 4, 2026

Dear Parent,

I would like to thank you for supporting our faculty in making reading a priority for your child through your participation in the East Meadow Summer Reading Program. A student's success in school depends upon their ability to read a variety of texts both thoughtfully and critically. Summer reading is a valuable experience for all students and an important extension of their educational growth here in East Meadow.

We encourage you to support your child to read regularly over the summer. Just as athletes train in the off-season to stay in shape, students also need to stay "intellectually fit" by reading. Research shows that students who read during the summer are more likely to retain—and even strengthen—their academic progress. Our goal is to foster strong, lifelong reading habits while helping students deepen their curiosity, critical thinking, and engagement with the world around them. We encourage all students to read widely and often!

Middle School Summer Reading Requirements:

- **Students are asked to select and read one book from the list [linked](#) below. To support their comprehension and preparation for a class assignment, students should actively read and take notes using the provided [reading organizer](#).**
- **Grade 7 Honors students will be required to read 2 texts (information below).**
- **During the week of September 21, 2026, students will complete a writing assignment in class based on their summer reading. This assignment will count as a 1st Quarter English grade.**

A range of texts is offered to appeal to different interests and reading levels. Books can be found at the school library, the East Meadow Public Library, the Nassau County Public Library Digital Doorway, Barnes & Noble, Amazon, and through Sora, our East Meadow digital library platform. Sora offers access to a wide selection of eBooks and audiobooks. We encourage families to be part of the book selection process. While all texts on the list have literary value, some may be more appropriate for mature readers. Please help your child select a book that fits their age, maturity, and interests.

Students are only required to read one book from the grade specific list. For those looking for more, additional suggestions can be found on the summer reading website at <https://tinyurl.com/445sjup8>.

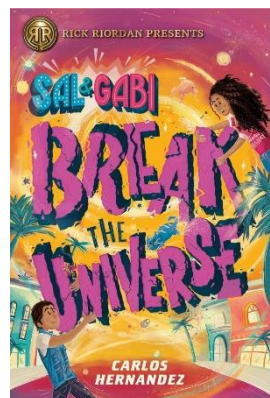
Happy reading,

Frank Lukasik

Director of Literacy and Funded Programs

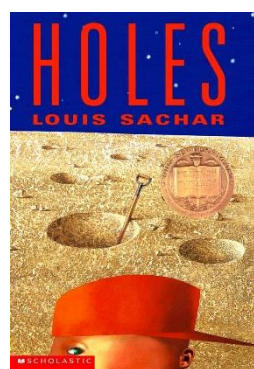
Salisbury School • 718 The Plain Road • Westbury, NY 11590 • (516) 478-5538 • Fax (516) 478-5808

Entering **Grade 6** Summer Reading Titles



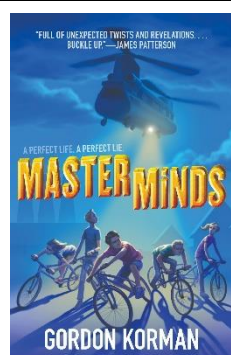
Carlos Hernandez

When Sal Vidon meets Gabi Real for the first time, it isn't under the best of circumstances. Sal is in the principal's office for the third time in three days, and it's still the first week of school. Gabi, student council president and editor of the school paper, is there to support her friend Yasmany, who just picked a fight with Sal. She is determined to prove that somehow, Sal planted a raw chicken in Yasmany's locker, even though nobody saw him do it and the bloody poultry has since mysteriously disappeared. Sal prides himself on being an excellent magician, but for this sleight of hand, he relied on a talent no one would guess . . . except maybe Gabi, whose sharp eyes never miss a trick. When Gabi learns that he's capable of conjuring things much bigger than a chicken—including his dead mother—and she takes it all in stride, Sal knows that she is someone he can work with. There's only one slight problem: their manipulation of time and space could put the entire universe at risk.



Louis Sachar

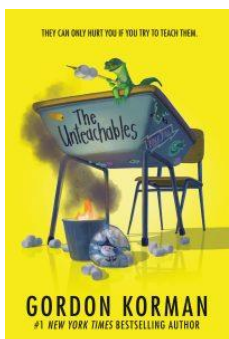
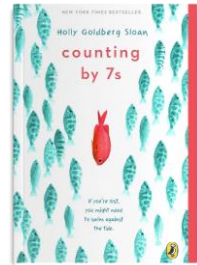
Stanley Yelnats is under a curse. A curse that began with his no-good-dirty-rotten-pig-stealing-great-great-grandfather and has since followed generations of Yelnats. Now Stanley has been unjustly sent to a boys' detention center, Camp Green Lake, where the boys build character by spending all day, every day digging holes exactly five feet wide and five feet deep. There is no lake at Camp Green Lake. It doesn't take long for Stanley to realize there's more than character improvement going on at Camp Green Lake. The boys are digging holes because the warden is looking for something. But what could be buried under a dried-up lake? Stanley tries to dig up the truth in this inventive and darkly humorous tale of crime and punishment—and redemption.



Gordon Korman

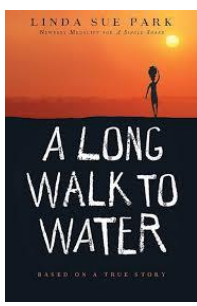
The first book in the action-packed trilogy from New York Times bestselling author Gordon Korman is perfect for fans of Stranger Things and James Patterson. Eli Frieden has never left Serenity, New Mexico...why would he ever want to? Then one day, he bikes to the edge of the city limits and something so crazy and unexpected happens, it changes everything. Eli convinces his friends to help him investigate further, and soon it becomes clear that nothing is as it seems in Serenity. The clues reveal a shocking discovery, connecting their ideal crime-free community to some of the greatest criminal masterminds ever known.

Entering **Grade 7** Summer Reading Titles

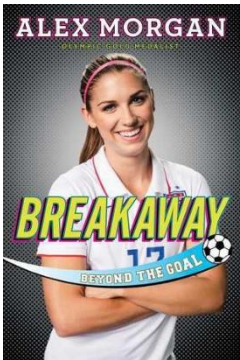
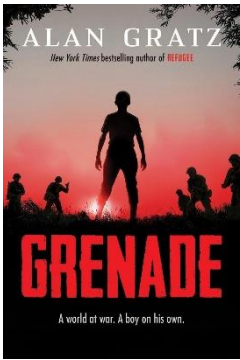
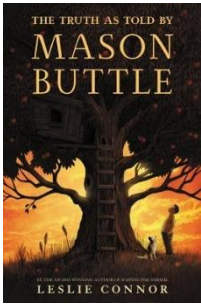
 Gordon Korman	The Unteachables are a notorious class of misfits that have been removed from the student body and isolated in room 117. Their teacher is Mr. Zachary Kermit, the most burned-out teacher in all of Greenwich. He was once a rising star, but his career was shattered by a scandal that still haunts him. After years of phoning in, he is finally one year away from early retirement. The Unteachables never thought they'd find a teacher who had a worse attitude than they had. And Mr. Kermit never thought he would actually care about teaching again. Over the course of a school year, though, room 117 will experience mayhem, destruction—and maybe even a shot at redemption.
 Holly Goldberg Sloan	Counting by 7's is the story of Willow Chase, a twelve-year-old girl who has been identified at an early age as 'gifted'. Willow lives in Bakersfield, California and comes home from school one day to the news that her parents had a tragic traffic accident. What follows is Willow's search to find a place where she belongs. In equal parts an exploration of the pain of loss and the triumph of moving forward, the novel looks at how one person can change the lives of many, often without even trying.
 Rick Riordan	How do you punish an immortal? By making him human. After angering his father Zeus, the god Apollo is cast down from Olympus. Weak and disoriented, he lands in New York City as a regular teenage boy. Now, without his godly powers, the four-thousand-year-old deity must learn to survive in the modern world until he can somehow find a way to regain Zeus's favor. But Apollo has many enemies—gods, monsters and mortals who would love to see the former Olympian permanently destroyed. Apollo needs help, and he can think of only one place to go... an enclave of modern demigods known as Camp Half-Blood.

Grade 7 Honors Required Reading

Honors Students are required to **A Long Walk to Water** AND one choice from the Grade 7 selection.

 Linda Sue Park	A Long Walk to Water begins as two stories, told in alternating sections, about two eleven-year-olds in Sudan, a girl in 2008 and a boy in 1985. The girl, Nya, is fetching water from a pond that is a two hour walk from her. She makes two trips to the pond every day. The boy, Salva, becomes one of the “lost boys” of Sudan, refugees who cover the African continent on foot as they search for their families and for a safe place to stay.
---	---

Entering **Grade 8** Summer Reading Titles

 Alex Morgan	Get inspired to be your best—in sports and in life—with this uplifting memoir from star soccer player and Olympic gold medalist Alex Morgan. As a talented and successful female athlete, Alex Morgan is a role model to thousands of girls who want to be their best, not just in soccer, but in other sports and in life. The story of her path to success, from playing in the 2011 Women's World Cup, to winning gold in the 2012 London Olympics, to ranking as one of the National Team's top scorers, will inspire everyone who reads it. From her beginnings with the American Youth Soccer Organization to her key role in the 2015 Women's World Cup, Alex shares the details that made her who she is today: a fantastic role model and athlete who proudly rocks a pink headband.
 Alan Gratz	It's 1945, and the world is in the grip of war. Hideki lives on the island of Okinawa, near Japan. When WWII crashes onto his shores, Hideki is drafted into the Blood and Iron Student Corps to fight for the Japanese army. He is handed a grenade and a set of Don't come back until you've killed an American soldier. Ray, a young American Marine, has just landed on Okinawa. He doesn't know what to expect -- or if he'll make it out alive. He just knows that the enemy is everywhere. Hideki and Ray each fight their way across the island, surviving heart-pounding ambushes and dangerous traps. But when the two of them collide in the middle of the battle, the choices they make in that instant will change everything. From the acclaimed author of Refugee comes this high-octane story of how fear can tear us apart, and how hope can tie us back together.
 Leslie Connor	Mason Buttle is the biggest, sweatiest kid in his grade, and everyone knows he can barely read or write. Mason's learning disabilities are compounded by grief. Fifteen months ago, Mason's best friend, Benny Kilmartin, turned up dead in the Buttle family's orchard. An investigation drags on, and Mason, honest as the day is long, can't understand why Lieutenant Baird won't believe the story Mason told about that day. Both Mason and his new friend, tiny Calvin Chumsky, are relentlessly bullied by the other boys in their neighborhood, so they create an underground club space for themselves. When Calvin goes missing, Mason finds himself in trouble again. He's desperate to figure out what happened to Calvin, and eventually, Benny.

Summer Reading Notes Organizer

Name _____

Text _____

Story Element	Details from the Story	Text Evidence	Additional Notes
Main Events: What are the most important things that happen in the text? List them in the order they happen.			

Story Element	Details from the Story	Text Evidence	Additional Notes
Problems or Challenges: What problems or conflicts do the characters face? Who or what causes these problems?			

Story Element	Details from the Story	Text Evidence	Additional Notes
---------------	------------------------	---------------	------------------

Character Reactions: How does the character respond to the problems? What actions or choices do they make?			
--	--	--	--

Story Element	Details from the Story	Text Evidence	Additional Notes
----------------------	-------------------------------	----------------------	-------------------------

Character Changes: How does the character grow or change from beginning to end? What do they learn or realize?			
--	--	--	--