MIDDLE SCHOOL SUMMER READING

LACES requires students to read over the summer. Each grade level has a mandatory text. Select the books from the grade the student will enter in August. Students & parents are responsible for obtaining their own books. Check local libraries and bookstores. Students will need to hold onto the books for the first month of school. Middle School students should read their grade level (column to the right) and should read at least one other book from the lists below.

6th Grade:
- How Tia Lola came to Stay by Julia Alvarez
- The Watson’s Go to Birmingham by Christopher Paul Curtis
- The Tale of Despereaux by Kate DiCamillo
- Shanbau by Suzanne Fisher Staples
- A Single Shard by Linda Sue Park
- Maniac Magee by Jerry Spinelli

7th Grade:
- Tangerine by Edward Bloor
- Hound of the Baskervilles by Arthur Conan Doyle
- The Skin I’m In by Sharon Flake
- Rumblefish by S.E. Hinton
- Becoming Naomi Leon by Pam Munoz Ryan
- Taking Sides by Gary Soto
- Dead End in Norvelt by Jack Gantos

8th Grade:
- I Am Malala by Malala Yousafzai
- Alice in Wonderland by Lewis Carroll
- The Chocolate War by Robert Cormier
- Hiroshima by John Hershey
- Hoot by Carl Hiaasen
- Journey of the Sparrows by Fran Leeper Buss
- Romiette & Julio by Sharon Draper

6th Grade: The City of Ember by Jeanne DuPrau
7th Grade: The Graveyard Book by Neil Gaiman
8th Grade: The Absolutely True Story of a Part-time Indian by Sherman Alexie
Recommended Reading:

All High School students read the required text for their grade; Honors students read an additional required book. AP English Language and Literature students have several required texts to read and annotate. In addition, these classes have summer essay assignments, published separately on the LACES Schoology page. Reading multiple books during the summer is highly encouraged. In August, teachers will use the summer reading to launch their curricula, so students should be prepared to be quizzed. Enjoy your summer reading!

All 9th Grade Students read *The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy* by Douglas Adams

Seconds before the Earth is demolished to make way for a galactic freeway, Arthur Dent is plucked off the planet by his friend Ford Prefect, a researcher for the revised edition of *The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy* who, for the last fifteen years, has been posing as an out-of-work actor.

**9th Grade Honors Students ALSO read** *The Astonishing Life of Octavian Nothing Traitor to the Nation vol. 1* by M. T. Anderson

Fearing a death sentence, young slave Octavian and his tutor escape through rising tides and pouring rain to find shelter in British occupied Boston. Sundered from all he knows—The College of Lucidity, the rebel cause—Octavian hopes to find safe harbor. Instead, he is soon to learn of Lord Dunmore's proclamation offering freedom to slaves who join the counter-revolutionary forces.

All 10th Grade Students read *Falling Leaves* by Adeline Yen Mah

A riveting memoir of a girl's painful coming-of-age in a wealthy Chinese family during the 1940s. A Chinese proverb says, “Falling leaves return to their roots.” In her autobiography, Mah returns to her roots to tell the story of her painful childhood and her courage in the face of despair. Since her family considers her bad luck after her mother dies during her birth, she is subject to disdain and derision. What Mah really yearns for is the love and understanding of family. Will she find it?

**10th Grade Honors Students ALSO read** *Slaughterhouse-Five* by Kurt Vonnegut

One of the world's great anti-war books, Slaughterhouse-Five centers on the infamous fire-bombing of Dresden. Billy Pilgrim's odyssey through time reflects the mythic journey of our own fractured lives as we search for meaning in what we are afraid to know (Amazon blurb).

All 11th Grade Students read *The Devil's Highway* by Luis Alberto Urrea

A reviewer in *The Atlantic* called Urrea's book, “The single most compelling, lucid, and lyrical contemporary account of the absurdity of the U.S. border policy.” This narrative, loaded with horrifying descriptions, grace and tension, is the true story of theYuma 14’s fateful walk into the Sonoran desert in an effort to reach *El Norte*, the promised land of the U.S.A.

**11th Grade AP English Language Students ALSO read** selected chapters from their textbook. See AP Summer work.

12th Grade Non-AP Students read *The Kite Runner* by Khaled Hosseini

Set in Afghanistan, Hosseini tells the unforgettable, heartbreaking story of the unlikely friendship between a wealthy boy and the son of his father's servant. Set against the backdrop of tumultuous events including the fall of the monarchy, Soviet military intervention, fleeing of refugees to Pakistan and the rise of the Taliban.

12th Grade AP English Lit Students read *Salvage the Bones* by Jesmyn Ward and *Medea* by Euripides

A novel about family love and struggle against all odds, Ward's book takes place in Mississippi during the growing threat of a hurricane. Focusing on a family of poor, essentially parentless children, Ward poetically depicts their brutal and restrictive life.