Dear Student:

Here is a list of books from which to choose for your summer reading. It is your responsibility to pick one of these books and have it read by the time you return to school in September. Most bookstores will have copies. Also, you can check your town or county library, and any of several book sites (Amazon.com, for example), on the internet. Your English teacher will assign a project, give a test, have you write an essay, or any combination of these to give you an opportunity to demonstrate your understanding of the book(s). We’ve taken a great deal of time to choose titles you will find interesting and rewarding. Happy reading!

Sincerely,

Jeanne Kernoschak
Director of Special Services

Summer Reading Journal Format
Freshmen 2015-2016

In order to keep better track of the summer reading you are assigned to do, the freshmen English teachers require that you maintain a Reading Journal to document the reading. This journal will assist you in completing an assessment on the reading when you return in September. Please use the format below to set up your pages in a spiral notebook or a marble composition book. Honors students only need to do the journal for the required read.

**Front page of Journal:**
Title and Author of the novel
List of characters with brief description for each

**Journal Pages:**
Chapter # and/or title
A minimum of 2 significant quotes with page numbers from the chapter that are of importance about the plot, character(s), conflict(s), or theme(s).
GRADE 9

*Bless the Beasts and Children*, Swarthout
Six adolescent “misfits” are determined to free a herd of buffalo and free themselves from dependence upon unjust adult authority.

*After the Rain*, Mazer
Only her grandfather, a dying man, can convince Rachel of her special abilities.

*The Call of the Wild*, Jack London
The exciting story of Buck, a sled dog, who breaks free from his savage master to roam the Alaskan wilderness.

*Children of the River*, Crew
After escaping from the Khmer Rouge army in Cambodia, Sundara now struggles to fit in at her Oregon high school.

*The Chocolate War*, Robert Cormier
Jerry Renault faces the cruelty of his peers and the stone wall of authority when he refuses to participate in the school fund-raising drive.

*Rumblefish*, S.E. Hinton
Rusty James fights to maintain his reputation as the number one tough guy in his neighborhood.

*A Farewell to Arms*, Hemingway
A poignant love story set in World War I Italy.

*The House of Dies Drear*, Hamilton
This story reveals the mystery of a house in which Dies Drear and two slaves were hidden when it was part of the Underground Railroad.

*I Never Loved Your Mind*, Zindel
Two school dropouts seek meaning in their lives by working in a hospital and moving to a commune.

*The War Between the Classes*, Miklowitz
A classroom experiment in race relations threatens to alienate Amy from her friends and Adam.

*Summer of My German Soldier*, Greene
Family problems ensue when a twelve-year old Jewish girl befriends a German POW in a small southern town in the 1940s.

*The Young Unicorns*, L’Engle
Frighteningly realistic story about a dangerous youth gang in New York City.
Education of Little Tree, Forrest Carter
A sensitive autobiographical account of a Cherokee boy in the 1930s growing up in the Appalachian Mountains.

We All Fall Down, Robert Cormier
As The Avenger searches for the teenage boys who trashed a house in his neighborhood, Buddy, one of the trashers, increases his drinking in order to cope with his parents’ separation and his obsession with the daughter of the owner of the vandalized house.

GRADE 10

The First Part Last, Angela Johnson
Bobby’s carefree teenage life changes forever when he becomes a father and must care for his adored baby daughter.

I Am Fifteen – and I Don’t Want to Die, Arnothy
As World War II rages, Christine and her family try to escape war-torn Budapest.

Alicia: My Story, Appleman-Jurman
In this memoir, Alicia tells about saving the lives of people she did not know while fleeing the Nazis through war-ravaged Poland.

A Summer Life, Soto
In these short essays, Soto recreates the sights, sounds, and textures of his boyhood.

They Never Came Home, Lois Duncan
When two friends fail to return from a camping trip, their parents suspect foul play.

Harry Potter and the Sorcerer’s Stone (#1), J.K. Rowling

Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets (#2), J.K. Rowling

GRADE 11

I Am the Messenger, Markus Zusak
After capturing a bank robber, nineteen-year old cab driver Ed Kennedy begins receiving mysterious messages that direct him to addresses where people need help and he begins getting over his lifelong feeling of worthlessness.

When I was a Soldier, Valerie Zenatti
Valerie begins her story as she finishes her exams, breaks up with her boyfriend, and leaves for the service with the Israeli army.
**When the Legends Die**, Hal Borland
A young Indian boy battles for survival in the wilderness.

**Flush**, Carl Hiassin
Noah’s father, an environmentalist, ends up in jail after sinking a ship, the *Coral Reef*, for allegedly dumping raw sewage into the harbor. Noah is determined to succeed where his father has failed.

**The Old Man and the Sea**, Ernest Hemingway
It is the story of an old Cuban fisherman and his supreme ordeal: a relentless, agonizing battle with a giant marlin far out in the Gulf Stream.

**The Joy Luck Club**, Amy Tan
In 1949, four Chinese women begin meeting in San Francisco for fun. Nearly 40 years later, their daughters continue to meet as the Joy Luck Club. Their stories ultimately display the double happiness that can be found in being both Chinese and American.

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**GRADE 12**

**Angela’s Ashes**, Frank McCourt
A memoir of Frank McCourt, born in Depression-era Brooklyn to recent Irish immigrants and raised in the slums of Limerick, Ireland. Frank’s mother, Angela, has no money to feed the children since Frank’s father Malachy, rarely works, and when he does he drinks his wages. Yet Malachy does nurture in Frank an appetite for the one thing he can provide: a story.

**Don’t Look Behind You**, Lois Duncan
Seventeen-year-old April finds her comfortable life changed forever when death threats to her father, a witness in a federal case, force her family to go into hiding under assumed names and flee the pursuit of a hired killer.

**Sisterhood of the Traveling Pants**, Ann Brashares
A funky pair of dungarees and a strong friendship lie at the heart of this compelling coming-of-age novel. During the first summer they’ll be separated from each other, four friends share a pair of second-hand jeans...and experience happiness, heartbreak, and all the complications of growing up.

**All But My Life**, Gerda Weissmann Klein
Gerda Weissmann Klein’s celebrated memoir tells the moving story of a young woman’s three frightful years as a slave laborer of the Nazis and her miraculous liberation.

**Blink**, Malcolm Gladwell
In this best-seller, a staff writer for *The New Yorker* weighs the factors that determine good decision-making.