



District Summer Reading List



Incoming Fourth Graders for the 2021 – 2022 School Year

Parents/Guardians,

The purpose of this optional summer reading list is to encourage students to read an approved book that appeals to their own personal interests, instilling a love of reading as well as increasing literacy across the district. The following books were chosen based on many criteria, including reading level, content, interest, and more. Students should choose one book to read over the summer from the grade-level list below*.

Happy Reading!

	Author	Genre	Synopsis
<i>The Tale of Despereaux</i> The Tale of Despereaux Download or Read Online	Kate DiCamillo	Fiction: Fantasy	Welcome to the story of Despereaux Tilling, a mouse who is in love with music, stories, and a princess named Pea. It is also the story of a rat called Roscuro, who lives in the darkness and covets a world filled with light. And it is the story of Miggery Sow, a slow-witted serving girl who harbors a simple, impossible wish. These three characters are about to embark on a journey that will lead them down into a horrible dungeon, up into a glittering castle, and, ultimately, into each other's lives. And what happens then?
<i>Stealing Home</i> <i>The Story of Jackie Robinson</i> Read Online	Barry Denenberg	Nonfiction: Biography	<i>Stealing Home</i> is a moving and poignant account of a man who was determined to play baseball regardless of the color of his skin. This biography tells the story of Jackie Robinson, the first black man to play in baseball's major leagues in the United States. In his willingness to fight for his rights and the rights of others both on and off the baseball field, Jackie Robinson was not only a great ball player, but also a true American hero. He once said, "A life is not important except in the impact it has on other lives." Robinson truly lived an important life, which still influences people today.
<i>The Secret Garden</i> The Secret Garden Read Online The Secret Garden Read Online or Download the PDF	Frances Hodgson Burnett	Fiction: Children's Literature	The book tells the story of Mary Lennox, a spoiled child raised in India but sent to live in her uncle's manor in Yorkshire after her parents' death. She is left to herself by her uncle, Mr. Craven, who travels often. The only person who has time for Mary is her chambermaid, Martha. It is Martha who tells Mary about Mrs. Craven's walled garden, which has been closed and locked since her death. Mary becomes intrigued by the prospect of the forgotten garden, and her quest to find out the garden's secrets leads her to discover other secrets hidden in the manor. These discoveries combined with the unlikely friendships she makes along the way help Mary come out of her shell and find new fascination with the world around her.

<p><i>Sideways Stories from Wayside School</i> Sideways Stories from Wayside School PDF</p>	<p>Louis Sachar</p>	<p>Fiction</p>	<p><i>Sideways Stories from Wayside School</i> is a book with 30 stories about a wacky school. When the school was being built the builder messed up big time. The school was supposed to be one story tall with thirty classrooms side by side. Instead the builder built it thirty stories high with one classroom on each story.</p>
<p><i>From the Mixed-Up Files of Mrs. Basil E. Frankenwiler</i> From the Mixed Up Files of Mrs. Basil E. Frankenwiler Read Online</p>	<p>E. L. Konigsburg</p>	<p>Fiction</p>	<p>This novel follows two children-12-year-old Claudia Kincaid and her brother Jamie-as they run away from home and hide out in the New York Metropolitan Museum of Art. The children become involved in researching the past of an angel statue sold to the museum by Mrs. Basil E. Frankenwiler, whom they eventually leave the museum to go find.</p>
<p><i>What's the Big Idea, Ben Franklin?</i> Borrow from Open Library – Free sign up (numerous books by this author to choose from)</p>	<p>Jean Fritz</p>	<p>Nonfiction: Biography</p>	<p>No matter how busy he was, Ben Franklin always found time to try out new ideas: a remote-control lock (so he could lock his door without getting out of bed), a rocking chair with a fan over it (to keep flies away), and a windmill (to turn his roast meat on its spit). Aside from being a mad of ideas, he was an ambassador to England, a printer, an almanac maker, a politician, and even a vegetarian (for a time, anyway).</p>
<p><i>Anne of Green Gables</i> Audible (Click the Audible link, click Start Listening, search for <i>Anne of Green Gables</i> and click it to begin listening.) Anne of Green Gables PDF</p>	<p>Lucy Maud Montgomery</p>	<p>Fiction: Novel</p>	<p>Set in the late 19th century, the novel recounts the adventures of Anne Shirley, an 11-year-old orphan girl, who is mistakenly sent to two middle-aged siblings, Matthew and Marilla Cuthbert, who had originally intended to adopt a boy to help them on their farm in the fictional town of Avonlea on Prince Edward Island, Canada. The novel recounts how Anne makes her way through life with the Cuthberts, in school, and within the town.</p>

*Teachers may request to add a book to this list by submitting it through the school's novel selection process.

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