Seventh Grade Language Arts 2019-2020
Summer Reading

Please obtain copies of the following texts for summer reading 2019.

**The Giver** by Lois Lowry (All students)
All upcoming 7th graders should read *The Giver* by the first day of school. The novel serves as a foundation for exploring reading strategies and skills, literary analysis, and composition skills.

**Guidelines:**
- Read *The Giver* close to the start of school—keep it fresh in your mind! Expect a brief assessment over the novel within the first week of school.
- If you have read *The Giver* before, read it again. While you may remember the overall story, reading to refresh your memory of specific details will help you as we work through activities related to the text.
- **Annotations of character descriptions and bullet-pointed chapter summaries are recommended.** Feel free to write/highlight in your book.

**The Hiding Place** by Corrie ten Boom (Intensive LA7 students only)
Only Intensive Language Arts 7 students are required to read this text. This memoir is set in WWII in Holland, where a Christian family helps hide Jews from the Nazi Occupation. Primarily, this is a book about faith and following God’s perfect plan for our lives.

**Guidelines:**
- Give yourself time to read *The Hiding Place*. The first few chapters lay the framework for the shocking events that happen as the text progresses. Expect a brief assessment over the novel within the first week of school.
- If you have read *The Hiding Place* before, read it again. While you may remember the overall story, reading to refresh your memory of specific details will help you as we work through activities related to the text.
- **Annotations of character descriptions and bullet-pointed chapter summaries are recommended.** Feel free to write/highlight in your book.
- This is a wonderful text for students as well as their parents to read!

**Choice Books (All students)**
Yes, books (plural!)—your choice. We will be reading many wonderful books together during 7th grade, but what better way to spend the summer than by reading as many books as possible personally picked by...YOU?

**Guidelines:**
- Read as many books as possible beyond *The Giver* (and *The Hiding Place*, if you are an ILA student). There is no required number, but please keep a record of all the books (and their authors) you read.

Assignment: When school begins, you will receive instructions on when to submit your book record in the form of a photograph. You will bring in a photo of you with all the books you read over the summer OR bring in a photo of you holding a readable list/poster of all the books you read over summer. Be sure to include our required summer text/s in the picture!
Rationale & Helpful Information

- Marathon runners do not train by running 26.2 miles each and every time they go out to run. Runners build stamina, gradually increasing their time and distance until they are strong enough for 26.2 miles. In 7th grade, you will find that the amount and difficulty of required reading—across academic subjects—increases. A key factor for academic success is building your reading muscles—your ability to concentrate for longer periods of time. You can build reading stamina over the summer by choosing what you want to read and by giving yourself quiet time to focus and reflect on your reading.

- Please make use of the public library—we do not expect you to purchase a ton of books. If you do not have your own library card, now is a good time to get one. You may certainly download books to an electronic device or purchase books, but we encourage you to be as cost efficient as possible!

- What to read depends on your interests. We expect that you will challenge yourself—you should not be reading just middle grade books (usually for ages 9-12). Talk to your friends or older siblings—what have they read and loved? Have you loved a particular author? Search for other books by that author. Talk to the librarians or book store staff members—they will know what books have been popular among students your age. Go to the American Library Association website (www.ala.org) and search for young adult literature. Goodreads is another site where you can find recommendations and descriptions of books, as well as reviews written by peers. Pay attention to book descriptions, as there may be books that you or your parents might not be comfortable with.

- If you give a book a good try and really dislike it, it is okay to put it down. You may want to come back and try it later, or it just may not be for you. Please do not suffer through any book that you have selected to read. Move on to something more enjoyable.

- The goal is for you to read—any genre, fiction or nonfiction—beyond the required reading. When school starts, we will celebrate our reading, and we will also think more deeply about how our reading lives impact our learning.

If you or your parents have questions about summer reading, please contact Mrs. Mimi Ehlen (LA7) or Mrs. Erin Conn (LA7 and ILA7): mimi.ehlen@chca-oh.org and erin.conn@chca-oh.org. We will make every effort to get back to you as soon as possible.