

# District Summer Reading List

Incoming Seventh Graders for the 2022 – 2023 School Year

Parents/Guardians,

The purpose of summer reading is to encourage students to read (or have read aloud) an approved novel 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, connections to future ELA content, student interest, and more.

Students can choose one book to read over the summer from the grade-level list below.

**Happy reading!**



Title	Author	Genre	Synopsis
<i>A Summer Life</i>	Gary Soto	Memoir	Gary Soto writes that when he was five "what I knew best was at ground level." In this lively collection of short essays, Soto takes his reader to a ground-level perspective, recreating in vivid detail the sights, sounds, smells, and textures he knew growing up in his Fresno, California, neighborhood.
<i>Soul Surfer</i>	Bethany Hamilton	Memoir	Soul Surfer is a moving account of Bethany's life as a young surfer, her recovery after the attack, the adjustments she's made to her unique surfing style, her unprecedented bid for a top showing in the World Surfing Championships, and, most fundamentally, her belief in God. It is a story of girl power and spiritual grit that shows the body is no more essential to surfing—perhaps even less so—than the soul.

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

Images: <https://slidesmania.com/>

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***Gifted Hands:  
The Ben  
Carson Story***

Ben  
Carson

Inspirational  
Nonfiction

Ben Carson, M.D., works medical miracles. Today, he's one of the most celebrated neurosurgeons in the world. In *Gifted Hands*, he tells of his inspiring odyssey from his childhood in inner-city Detroit to his position as director of pediatric neurosurgery at Johns Hopkins Hospital at age 33. Ben Carson is a role model for anyone who attempts the seemingly impossible as he takes you into the operating room where he has saved countless lives. Filled with fascinating case histories, this is the dramatic and intimate story of Ben Carson's struggle to beat the odds -- and of the faith and genius that make him one of the greatest life-givers of the century.

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***Hunger Games***

[\*Digital version\*](#)

Suzanne  
Collins

Utopia/  
Dystopia  
Fiction

In the ruins of a place once known as North America lies the nation of Panem, a shining Capitol surrounded by twelve outlying districts. Long ago the districts waged war on the Capitol and were defeated. As part of the surrender terms, each district agreed to send one boy and one girl to appear in an annual televised event called, "The Hunger Games," a fight to the death on live TV. Sixteen-year-old Katniss Everdeen, who lives alone with her mother and younger sister, regards it as a death sentence when she is forced to represent her district in the Games. The terrain, rules, and level of audience participation may change but one thing is constant: kill or be killed.

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