

Dear Rising 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Parents,

As the 8<sup>th</sup> grade Language Arts and Literature teacher, I am pleased to share our 8<sup>th</sup> grade Scholastic Reading Counts program with you. **This summer, the rising 8<sup>th</sup> graders will be given the opportunity to read up to 4 of the year's required books to get ahead for the upcoming 2017-2018 school year.**

Throughout the school year, the 8<sup>th</sup> graders are expected to read at least 2 novels outside of class per quarter (8 total for the year). Since the workload is more rigorous in 8<sup>th</sup> grade as the students prepare for high school, this is a great chance for them to free up some time during the school year to use for studying, projects, and homework. It is also a great lesson in time management, which is an important skill for success in high school.

**Each student will still be *required* to read at least one summer reading book which will count towards the summer requirement.** If your child decides he/she would like to read more than the minimum requirement of one book, each additional book (up to 4 total) will count towards one of the required novels for each quarter.

8<sup>th</sup> graders will be allowed to test on the books they read over the summer when they return to school in August. Students who read more than the minimum requirement over the summer will be given the choice of which quarter he/she would like to use the book(s) for. *Students will not be allowed to use more than one book per quarter.* Each student will still be expected to read at least one book per quarter.

*To meet the requirement for 8<sup>th</sup> grade, each book must be in the 8<sup>th</sup> grade (+) reading level OR Lexile range of 900-1150. Each book choice must also be worth at least 8 points.* Students with higher Lexile levels may read books higher than 1150, but no one should go below 850. Please verify on [www.scholastic.com/bookexpert](http://www.scholastic.com/bookexpert) that each book meets one of the above criteria. If you cannot find the book on this website, there is not an RC test to take on it so it is important that you check first. There is also a Scholastic Book Wizard mobile app. With the app, you can scan the barcode of a book, and the Lexile and reading level will be displayed! This can be very helpful when you are at the bookstore or library deciding on a book. The American Library Association [www.ala.org](http://www.ala.org) has a 2017 recommended reading list with some great titles this year. Websites such as [www.goodreads.com](http://www.goodreads.com) also have a suggested list for ideas.

It is wonderful to teach the students to think ahead and prepare for what is to come. 8<sup>th</sup> grade is a fun year, but can be quite challenging if time is not managed well. Hopefully students will take advantage of this opportunity to get ahead.

Have a wonderful, relaxing, and blessed summer. I look forward to getting to know everyone next year!

Jolie Thompson