



Dear Middle School Parents,

As we continue to enrich our students' experience, we are excited to share the updated list of novels that will need to be purchased for the upcoming school year. These carefully selected titles will be used in our classroom curriculum to support reading comprehension, critical thinking, and meaningful classroom discussions.

Please purchase a hard copy of each novel for your student, label it with his or her name, and send it on the first day of school.

8th

- *The Outsiders*- SE Hinton
- *Animal Farm*- George Orwell
- *Lord of the Flies*- William Golding
- *To Kill a Mockingbird*- Harper Lee

7th

- *The Giver* by Lois Lowery
- *Refuge* by Alan Gratz
- *The Diary of Anne Frank (play)* by Frances Goodrich and Albert Hackett
- *My Side of the Mountain* by Jean Craighead George

6th

- *Among the Hidden* by Margaret Haddix
- *The Watson's Go to Birmingham* by Christopher Paul Curtis
- *Number the Stars* by Lois Lowery
- *Freak the Mighty* by Roman Philbrick

Thank you for your continued support of our literacy program. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact Mrs. Farfone at rfarfone@scbss.org.

Thank you,
BSCS Middle School ELA Team



Middle School Summer Reading

All students will read the novel assigned for their grade level ***plus*** an additional book of their choice. Students may want to consider a novel from the Beta Club Battle of the Books list which is posted below.

When reading the required books below, students should make annotations. We will complete a novel study including a writing assignment when we return to school. Students should bring their copy of the novel on the first day.

8th Grade:

- *The Hound of the Baskervilles* by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle

7th Grade:

- *The Wave* by Todd Stasser

6th Grade:

- *Holes* by Louis Sachar

National Beta Club Battle of the Books List: (*Recommended, not required*)

- *The Girl Who Drank the Moon* by Kelly Barnhill
- *The House of the Scorpion* by Nancy Farmer
- *Milkweed* by Jerry Spinelli
- *All Thirteen: The Incredible Cave Rescue of the Thai Boys' Soccer Team* by Christina Soontornvat
- *The Storm Runner* by J.C. Cervantes
- *The True Confessions of Charlotte Doyle* by Avi
- *The War That Saved My Life* by Kimberly Brubaker Bradley
- *Swim Team: A Graphic Novel* by Johnnie Christmas
- *Life As We Knew It* by Susan Beth Pfeffer
- *When Stars Are Scattered* by Omar Mohamed and Victoria Jamieson
- *Walk Two Moons* by Sharon Creech

Summer Reading Projects Special

You pick 2!

Pick one of the books you read this summer, **not** the required class novel.
For each book you must pick an entrée. Then pick an appetizer or a dessert to go along with it.

For each book you also must complete the following questions:

1. Why did you choose this book?
2. Did you enjoy reading it? Why or why not?
3. Would you recommend it to someone else?

Appetizer	Entrée	Dessert
News Story Write an objective (without opinion) news story reporting the events in your book. <i>At least one page.</i> Dear Author Write a letter to the author of your chosen novel. Explain what you liked and/or disliked, ask any questions you have about the story/characters, explain what you would have changed if you were the author, and mention at least one thing you will always remember about this novel and why. <i>At least one page.</i> Dear Diary Write a diary entry about a main event in the novel from the main character's point of view. Include their thoughts/feelings, and questions. <i>At least one page.</i> Song Lyrics Write a song or poem about the emotional relationships between the characters in your novel. <i>Minimum of 30 lines.</i>	Interview with a Character Interview a character from your novel or non-fiction book. The interview must have <i>twenty open-ended</i> questions with no yes or no responses. New Chapters Write one new chapter for your book. This new chapter can go anywhere in the book—beginning, middle, or end. <i>At least two pages.</i> Create an alternate timeline. Change one event/decision in the novel. Explain how this change would have affected the characters and the plot. Explain why this would/would not have been a better direction for the novel to take. Your explanation should be at least one full page. Also, include a full-page timeline that reflects the change. Write a statement of the main theme with quotes from the novel for support.	Cartoon/Storyboard Create a cartoon strip or storyboard based on your novel. Focus on pivotal events and put them in chronological order. Drawings must be well done. <i>At least eight panels.</i> Book Jacket Create a book jacket for your book (fiction or nonfiction). Make sure to include a new title, cover picture, information about the author, and an objective summary on the back cover. Also, include three or four quotes from people about the book. Sneaky Snoop As an investigative reporter, you sneak into the home of the main character in your novel. Report at least 10 items that you find and draw a picture for each item. Also, include a written explanation (2-3 sentences per item) identifying how each item connects to the main character. These items may or may not have been mentioned in the novel...feel free to use your imagination.

