Dear Upcoming 7th Graders and Parents:

For those of us who work on an academic calendar, summer is a special blessing. It gives us time to sleep later than usual, catch up on films we may have missed, travel, and test our hammocks. We teachers also embrace the opportunity to read, and, of course, we invite our students to join us in exploring books during the summer months.

In order to promote reading, we have chosen one required book for all upcoming seventh graders in regular English (Refugee by Alan Gratz) and two required books (Refugee + one book from the book list) for accelerated English. In addition all students will complete 2 passport activities prior to the beginning of 7th Grade: one required and one from the list of 7 choices. We ask that students read the book selection carefully and come to school in August ready to participate in a literature circle discussing Refugee. We also look forward to reading your letters and other passport activities, which will give teachers an opportunity to get to know you better. We encourage you to read and complete the passport activities throughout the summer; don’t wait until the week prior to school. These assignments are designed to ease your transition from 6th grade to 7th grade and to exercise your writing skills.

Parents, please encourage your children to make reading a part of their daily lives this summer. We appreciate the efforts you make to foster a love of books.

Sincerely,
7th Grade Language Arts Teachers

Required Reading: Refugee by Alan Gratz (available at Amazon for $6.35)

Accelerated students will be required to read Refugee by Alan Gratz AND one of the following choices:

Undefeated: Jim Thorpe and the Carlisle Indian School Football Team by Steve Sheinkin
Unbroken (Young Reader’s Edition) by Laura Hildenbrand
The Hobbit by JRR Tolkein
Little Women by Louisa May Alcott
Call of the Wild by Jack London
Anne of Green Gables by L.M. Montgomery
The Crossover by Kwame Alexander
Amal Unbound by Aisha Saeed
I Am Malala (Young Reader’s Edition) by Malala Yousefsei
I Will Always Write Back by Martin Ganda, Caitlin Alifirenka, and Liz Welch
The Warden’s Daughter by Jerry Spinelli

Please see additional Passport Activities on the back of this sheet. One activity is required by all upcoming 7th graders. Students will choose one additional activity to complete.
Super Summer Passport Activities

The following activities may be typed or hand-written and are due on Friday, August 9, 2019.

Required by all:

Write a letter (minimum of one page) to your seventh grade Language Arts teacher introducing yourself. Tell about your likes and dislikes. Explain any successes and challenges you have faced in reading, writing, and grammar. What are your expectations for seventh grade?

Complete at least one of the following:

1. Choose a character in Refugee, and write a one-page letter to that character expressing your likes and dislikes toward that character.

2. Draw a detailed picture of a person you met or a place you visited during the summer or a character from one of your summer reading books. Write a descriptive paragraph to accompany your drawing.

3. Write a movie review. Include your ticket stub. Make a collage of the actors, actresses, theme, plot, etc.

4. Make a homemade dish for your family. Write a one-page description of the preparation and the enjoyment of the cuisine. Include the recipe.

5. Interview an adult such as a grandparent or neighbor. Ask him/her what life was like when he/she was in middle school as well as world events at that time. Provide a written record of the interview questions and answers.

6. Draw a map of a place you visit over the summer.

7. Choose a meaningful song that relates to you or your world. Write out the lyrics and explain why they have special meaning for you.