

2016 High School Summer Reading

ALL students in grades 9-12 will read:

***The Warrior's Heart: Becoming a Man of Compassion and Courage* by Eric Greitens**

*(students are also welcome to read the adult adaption of this title, ***The Heart and the Fist* by Eric Greitens**)

In this adaptation of his best-selling book, *The Heart and the Fist*, Eric speaks directly to teens, interweaving memoir and intimate second-person narratives that ask readers to put themselves in the shoes of himself and others. Readers will share in Eric's evolution from average kid to humanitarian to warrior, training and serving with the most elite military outfit in the world. Along the way, they'll be asked to consider the power of choices, of making the decision each and every day to act with courage and compassion so that they grow to be tomorrow's heroes.

The Warrior's Heart will serve as a common basis for discussions throughout the year on our school-wide theme of leadership. As you complete your reading, make note of meaningful questions, observations (with text support), significant quotations, and points that demonstrate good leadership.

All students in grades 9-12 will also choose ONE additional book off the list below to read:

* Please note that some titles contain strong language and behavior. Parents should use their discretion when choosing titles with their children.

***All American Boys* by Jason Reynolds and Brendan Kiely**

*Note: This story contains strong language

Rashad Butler is a quiet, artistic teen who hates ROTC but dutifully attends because father insists "there's no better opportunity for a black boy in this country than to join the army." He heads to Jerry's corner store on a Friday night to buy chips, and ends up the victim of unwarranted arrest and police brutality: an event his white schoolmate Quinn Collins witnesses in terrified disbelief. Quinn is even more shocked because the cop is Paul Galluzzo, older brother of his best friend and Quinn's mentor since his father died in Afghanistan. As events unfold, both boys are forced to confront the knowledge that racism in America has not disappeared and that change will not come unless they step forward.

***The Boys in the Boat: The True Story of an American Team's Epic Journey to Win Gold at the 1936 Olympics* (Young Readers Adaptation) by Daniel James Brown**

Out of the depths of the Great Depression comes the astonishing tale of nine working-class boys from the American West who at the 1936 Olympics showed the world what true grit really meant. With rowers who were the sons of loggers, shipyard workers, and farmers, the University of Washington's eight-oar crew was never expected to defeat the elite East Coast teams, yet they did, going on to shock the world by challenging the German boat rowing for Adolf Hitler.

At the center of the tale is Joe Rantz, a teenager without family or prospects, whose personal quest captures the spirit of his generation—the generation that would prove in the coming years that the Nazis could not prevail over American determination and optimism.

***The Boys Who Challenged Hitler: Knud Peterson and the Churchill Club* by Phillip Hoose**

At the outset of World War II, Denmark did not resist German occupation. Deeply ashamed of his nation's leaders, fifteen-year-old Knud Pedersen resolved with his brother and a handful of schoolmates to take action against the Nazis if the adults would not. Naming their secret club after the fiery British leader, the young patriots in the Churchill Club committed countless acts of sabotage, infuriating the Germans, who eventually had the boys tracked down and arrested. But their efforts were not in vain: the boys' exploits and eventual imprisonment helped spark a full-blown Danish resistance.

***The Boy Who Harnessed the Wind: Creating Currents of Electricity and Hope* by William Kamkwamba**

William Kamkwamba was born in Malawi, a country where magic ruled and modern science was mystery. It was also a land withered by drought and hunger. But William had read about windmills, and he dreamed of building one that would bring to his small village a set of luxuries that only 2 percent of Malawians could enjoy: electricity and running water. His neighbors called him misala—crazy—but William refused to let go of his dreams. With a small pile of once-forgotten science textbooks; some scrap metal, tractor parts, and bicycle halves; and an armory of curiosity and determination, he embarked on a daring plan to forge an unlikely contraption and small miracle that would change the lives around him.

***Endurance: Shackleton's Incredible Voyage* by Alfred Lansing**

In August 1914, polar explorer Ernest Shackleton boarded the *Endurance* and set sail for Antarctica, where he planned to cross the last uncharted continent on foot. In January 1915, after battling its way through a thousand miles of pack ice and only a day's sail short of its destination, the *Endurance* became locked in an island of ice. Thus began the legendary ordeal of Shackleton and his crew of twenty-seven men.

For ten months the ice-moored *Endurance* drifted northwest before it was finally crushed between two ice floes. With no options left, Shackleton and a skeleton crew attempted a near-impossible journey over 850 miles of the South Atlantic's heaviest seas to the closest outpost of civilization. Their survival, and the survival of the men they left behind, depended on their small lifeboat successfully finding the island of South Georgia—a tiny dot of land in a vast and hostile ocean.

***Matched* by Ally Condie**

For Cassia, nothing is left to chance--not what she will eat, the job she will have, or the man she will marry. In *Matched*, the Society Officials have determined optimal outcomes for all aspects of daily life, thereby removing the "burden" of choice. When Cassia's best friend is identified as her ideal marriage Match, it confirms her belief that Society knows best, until she plugs in her Match microchip and a different boy's face flashes on the

screen. This improbable mistake sets Cassia on a dangerous path to the unthinkable--rebellious against the predetermined life Society has in store for her.

***No Summit Out of Sight: The True Story of the Youngest Person to Climb the Seven Summits* by Jordan Romero**

On May 22, 2010, at the age of thirteen, American teenager Jordan Romero became the youngest person to climb to the summit of Mount Everest. At fifteen, he became the youngest person to reach the summits of the tallest mountains on each of the seven continents. In this energizing memoir for young adults, Jordan, recounts his experience, which started as a spark of an idea at the age of nine and, many years of training and hard work later, turned into a dream come true.

***Unbroken: An Olympian's Journey from Airman to Castaway to Captive (Young Adult Adaptation)* by Laura Hillenbrand**

On a May afternoon in 1943, an American military plane crashed into the Pacific Ocean and disappeared, leaving only a spray of debris and a slick of oil, gasoline, and blood. Then, on the ocean surface, a face appeared. It was that of a young lieutenant, the plane's bombardier, who was struggling to a life raft and pulling himself aboard. So began one of the most extraordinary sagas of the Second World War.

The lieutenant's name was Louis Zamperini. As a boy, he had been a clever delinquent, breaking into houses, brawling, and stealing. As a teenager, he had channeled his defiance into running, discovering a supreme talent that carried him to the Berlin Olympics. But when war came, the athlete became an airman, embarking on a journey that led to his doomed flight, a tiny raft, and a drift into the unknown.

***X: A Novel* by Ilyasah Shabazz and Kekla Magoon**

*Note: This story includes the reality of Malcolm X's early life, including the use of the "n" word, non-graphic sex, drug and alcohol abuse, and criminal behavior.

Malcolm Little's parents have always told him that he can achieve anything, but from what he can tell, that's a pack of lies—after all, his father's been murdered, his mother's been taken away, and his dreams of becoming a lawyer have gotten him laughed out of school. There's no point in trying, he figures, and lured by the nightlife of Boston and New York, he escapes into a world of fancy suits, jazz, and girls. But Malcolm's efforts to leave the past behind lead him into increasingly dangerous territory. Deep down, he knows that the freedom he's found is only an illusion—and that he can't run forever.

X follows Malcolm from his childhood to his imprisonment for theft at age twenty, when he found the faith that would lead him to forge a new path and command a voice that still resonates today.