***Troy High School Summer Reading Program***

All students, grades 9-12, will be reading this summer!

**Reading Assignment for 9 LC and 9 Basic Students:** This is required for EACH student entering the 9th grade. Please Note: There is a separate Reading List and Assignment for 9LC Honors.

Summer reading is about holding a book in your hands. . . . Summer reading is about kicking off shoes, staying up much too late, reading all day with no one caring that’s what you’re doing. It’s about rushing through one to get to the next or lingering as long as you want. It’s about vicarious experiences that let us become a girl in an attic, a boy in the wilderness, a kite runner in a far-away land. (Kyleen Beers)

Please join us as we begin to experience the themes and character struggles that we will encounter throughout our literary exploration in 9th Grade English. We know that you will love reading **one** of the following:

Bud, Not Buddy Christopher Paul Curtis

Mississippi Trial, 1955 Chris Crowe

Navigating Early Clare Vanderpool

And, because we don’t want you to miss out on the excitement from last year, please also choose **one** of these Young Adult Best-Sellers that last year’s ninth graders “Loved the Most.”

Beastly Alex Finn

Curveball: The Year I Lost my Grip Jordan Sonnenblick

The Maze Runner James Dashner

Peak Roland Smith

Within the first two weeks of the school year, we will be discussing and writing about what you found most fascinating about these texts. In the meantime, interact with your teachers and your peers by following and tweeting @THS9Readers. You can send us questions, comments, reactions, or anything else that you’re thinking about while reading! We will respond, retweet, and appreciate connecting with you before you get to school! ☺

**Aside from reading the books (and tweeting about them if you would like), there is no other assignment**.

**Where do I get the books?**

Troy Public Library (Note: The supply at the library will be limited.)

New books can be purchased through sites such as amazon.com and barnesandnoble.com.

Used books can be purchased through sites such as half.com.

Ebooks can be purchased through many online stores including the Amazon Bookstore or through iTunes via the iBooks app.

**“What we know is that children who do not read in the summer lose two to three months of reading**

**development while kids who do read tend to gain a month of reading proficiency.”**

(**University of Tennessee professor Richard Allington**)

***Bud, Not Buddy*** by Christopher Paul Curtis

It's 1936, in Flint, Michigan. Ten-year-old Bud may be a motherless boy on the run, but he's on a mission. His momma never told him who his father was, but she left a clue: posters of Herman E. Calloway and his famous band, the Dusky Devastators of the Depression! Bud's got an idea that those posters will lead to his father. Once he decides to hit the road and find this mystery man, nothing can stop him.

*Bud, Not Buddy* is full of laugh-out-loud humor and wonderful characters, hitting the high notes of jazz and sounding the deeper tones of the Great Depression. --Provided by publisher.

***Mississippi Trial, 1955*** by Chris Crowe

Mississippi Trial, 1955 is a gripping story that involves friendship, crisis, murder, and suspense. It is a coming of age story about a 16-year-old boy named Hiram who is visiting his grandfather in his old Mississippi hometown. At first, he is excited to be coming back to relive his youthful memories, but he soon realizes that much has changed since his childhood. His eyes are quickly opened to prejudice he had never seen before.

Soon after arriving, Hiram forms a brief friendship with Emmett Till, a young, black teenager who is also visiting Mississippi for the summer. In a sudden and tragic turn of events, Emmett is found dead; his tortured body is discovered floating down a river. Hiram decides he needs to understand how someone could do something like that, but the costs of finding out are dangerous. The answers will change his life forever. *Mississippi Trial, 1955* is a fascinating story based on the true events of Emmett Till’s murder; these events helped ignite the Civil Rights Movement. --Provided by publisher.

***Navigating Early*** by Clare Vanderpool

At the end of World War II, Jack Baker, a landlocked Kansas boy, is suddenly uprooted after his mother's death and placed in a boy's boarding school in Maine. There, Jack encounters Early Auden, the strangest of boys, who reads the number pi as a story and collects clippings about the sightings of a great black bear in the nearby mountains. Newcomer Jack feels lost yet can't help being drawn to Early, who won't believe what everyone accepts to be the truth about the Great Appalachian Bear, Timber Rattlesnakes, and the legendary school hero known as The Fish, who never returned from the war. When the boys find themselves unexpectedly alone at school, they embark on a quest on the Appalachian Trail in search of the great black bear. But what they are searching for is sometimes different from what they find. They will meet truly strange characters, each of whom figures into the pi story Early weaves as they travel, while discovering things they never realized about themselves and others in their lives. --Provided by publisher.

**AND**

***Beastly*** by Alex Finn

I am a beast. A beast. Not quite wolf or bear, gorilla or dog but a horrible new creature who walks upright--a creature with fangs and claws and hair springing from every pore. I am a monster. You think I'm talking fairy tales? No way. The place is New York City. The time is now. It's no deformity, no disease. And I'll stay this way forever--ruined--unless I can break the spell. Yes, the spell, the one the witch in my English class cast on me. Why did she turn me into a beast who hides by day and prowls by night? I'll tell you. I'll tell you how I used to be Kyle Kingsbury, the guy you wished you were, with money, perfect looks, and the perfect life. And then, I'll tell you how I became perfectly . . . beastly. --Provided by publisher.

***Curveball, The Year I Lost my Grip*** by Jordan Sonnenblick

Sometimes, the greatest comebacks take place far away from the ball field. Meet Peter Friedman, high school freshman. Talented photographer. Former baseball star. When a freakish injury ends his pitching career, Peter has some major things to figure out. Is there life after sports? Why has his grandfather suddenly given him thousands of dollars worth of camera equipment? And is it his imagination, or is the super-hot star of the girls' swim team flirting with him, right in front of the amazing new girl in his photography class? In his new novel, teen author Jordan Sonnenblick performs his usual miraculous feat: exploring deep themes of friendship, romance, family, and tragedy, while still managing to be hilariously funny. --Provided by publisher.

***The Maze Runner*** by James Dashner

The first book in the *New York Times* bestselling Maze Runner series—*The Maze Runner* is a modern classic, perfect for fans of *The Hunger Games* and *Divergent*. When Thomas wakes up in the lift, the only thing he can remember is his first name. His memory is blank. But he’s not alone. When the lift’s doors open, Thomas finds himself surrounded by kids who welcome him to the Glade—a large, open expanse surrounded by stone walls. Just like Thomas, the Gladers don’t know why or how they got to the Glade. All they know is that every morning the stone doors to the maze that surrounds them have opened. Every night they’ve closed tight. And every thirty days a new boy has been delivered in the lift. Thomas was expected. But the next day, a girl is sent up—the first girl to ever arrive in the Glade. And more surprising yet is the message she delivers. Thomas might be more important than he could ever guess. If only he could unlock the dark secrets buried within his mind. --Provided by publisher.

***Peak*** by Roland Smith

After fourteen-year-old Peak Marcello is arrested for scaling a New York City skyscraper, he’s left with a choice: wither away in juvenile detention or fly to Kathmandu with his long-lost father. Peak quickly learns that his father’s renewed interest in him has strings attached. As owner of Peak Expeditions, he wants his son to be the youngest person to reach the Everest summit. The story of Peak’s dangerous ascent is suspenseful, immediate, and impossible to put down. --Provided by publisher.