Incoming 8th Grade
Summer Reading List
(SY 21-22)

In order to maintain comprehension and vocabulary over the summer, below are a list of recommended books for students to read over the summer.

**Things Not Seen**, (Fiction)
By Andrew Clements (Grades 6 and Up/Lexile 690L)

From Amazon.com—
Teens, especially those not in the über-popular set, know all about feeling invisible. But what would happen if you actually did wake up invisible one day? Fifteen year-old Bobby is faced with this curious predicament in Andrew Clements’s compelling novel *Things Not Seen*. Doing his best to adapt, Bobby informs his parents and grows more and more frustrated as they try to control his (unseen) life. Attempting to take matters into his own hands, he ventures out – naked – to the library, where he meets a blind girl who becomes a natural confidant.

**Chasing Lincoln’s Killer** (Nonfiction)
By James L. Swanson (Grades 5-9/Lexile 980L)

This is a fast-paced account of the incredible plot to kill the President, the twelve-day manhunt that finally brought the President’s killer to justice, and the impact this event had on Lincoln's close family and friends.

**Coraline** (Fiction)
By Neil Gaiman (Grades 6-8/Lexile 740L)

From School Library Journal—
When Coraline and her parents move into a new house, she notices a mysterious, closed-off door. It originally went to another part of the house, which her family does not own. Some rather eccentric neighbors call her Caroline and seem not to understand her very well, yet they have information for her that will later prove vital. Bored, she investigates the door, which takes her into an alternate reality. There she meets her "other" mother and father. They are very nice to her, which pleases Coraline but also makes her a little suspicious.

**The Forbidden Schoolhouse: The True and Dramatic Story of Prudence Crandall and Her Students** (Nonfiction)
By Suzanne Jurmain (Grades 7-9/Lexile 920L)

From Amazon.com—
They threw rocks and rotten eggs at the school windows. Villagers refused to sell Miss Crandall groceries or let her students attend the town church. Mysteriously, her schoolhouse was set on fire—by whom and how remains a mystery. The town authorities dragged her to jail and put her on trial for breaking the law. Her crime? Trying to teach African American girls geography, history, reading, philosophy, and chemistry. Trying to open and maintain one of the first African American schools in America. Exciting and eye-opening, this account of the heroine of Canterbury, Connecticut, and her elegant white schoolhouse at the center of town will give readers a glimpse of what it is like to try to change the world when few agree with you.

**Off The Road** (Fiction)
By Nina Bawden (Grades 5-8/Lexile 700L)

From the Book's Back Cover—
It is the year 2035, and kids are the only ones who matter. In Tom's world, every family has only one child. "Brother" and "sister" are insults. And the Oldies, like Gandy—Tom's grandfather—are taken away to Memory Theme Parks. On the way to the Theme Park, Gandy escapes into the Wild Wood, the dangerous world outside their walled city. Tom has no choice but to follow. The wilderness is like nowhere he's ever been before, and the more he learns at Gandy's side, the more he wonders: Is the wall meant to keep the Outsiders out, as he's been taught in school—or the Insiders in?

**Gregor the Overlander** (Fiction) (This is the 1st book in the series.)
By Suzanne Collins (Grades 4-8/Lexile 630L)

From the Book's Front Flap—
When eleven-year-old Gregor follows his little sister through a grate in the laundry room of their New York apartment building, he hurtles into the dark Underland beneath the city. There, humans live uneasily beside giant spiders, bats, cockroaches, and rats—but the fragile peace is about to fall apart.