

**Our Lady of Hope School
Summer 2026
Reading List**

Reading is fundamental to learning. It increases your vocabulary, enriches your mind, and stretches your imagination. Recognizing these factors, Our Lady of Hope School requires all students entering grades K-8 to complete a summer reading program. In addition to these required texts, we have included a list of optional selections and recommended read-aloud books, which we also encourage you to read. The books are available in paperback at local bookstores, libraries, and on-line. This brochure is located on the School's website.

The grade level required book will be discussed in August followed by a test or project.

ENTERING KINDERGARTEN

Help your child begin the journey into the world of reading with the most enduring classics of children's literature: nursery rhymes. The rhythm and rhyme of these verses give children important early experience with literature and reading through listening, echo reading, and retelling. Your child should be able to recite the Mother Goose Rhymes at the beginning of the school year.

Read to your child DAILY. When you finish a book, ask your child what he/she liked about the book. Encourage discussion about the book with your child. He/she should begin to express answers in complete sentences. Avoid questions with yes/no answers. Rather, ask questions such as 'why did.....go out to the tree?' and 'what was your favorite part of the story?' Help your child develop critical thinking skills by discussing possible endings to a story. Children enjoy imagining what they would have done if they were the main character of a story.

Required reading for Kindergarten:

A Ball for Daisy by Chris Raschka

Pancakes for Breakfast by Tomie dePaola

The Lion and The Mouse by Jerry Pinkey

These books are NO WORD books. Your child can tell you the story using the pictures many times through the summer.

Suggested authors for reading to your child:

Leo Lionni

Dr. Seuss

Ezra Jack Keats

Arnold Lobel

Syd Hoff

Lois Elhert

Eric Carle

Tomie dePaola

Mercer Mayer

Kevin Henkes

Bill Martin

Melanie Watt



ENTERING 1ST GRADE

Students are encouraged to read daily with adults over the summer. Engage your child in the story by asking questions. Students may also pair read at this stage, where you read a page, then your child reads a page.

1st Grade Required Books:

Green Eggs and Ham by Dr. Seuss

A Little Spot in a World of Words by Diane Alber

Other suggested series and authors:

Bink and Gollie by Kate DiCamillo

Charlie & Mouse by Laura Snyder

Commander Toad Books by Jane Yolen

Elephant and Piggie Books by Mo Willems

Frog and Toad Books by Arnold Lobel

Katie Woo Books by Fran Manushkin

King & Kayla Books by Dori Hillestad Butler

Ling & Ting Books by Grace Lin

Little Bear Books by Else Holmølund Minarik

Mercy Watson Books by Kate DiCamillo

Nate the Great series by Majorie Sharmat

Penny Books by Kevin Henkes

The Magic School Bus Series

On August 24 your child will turn in a list of at least 5 books they read over the summer.

We also strongly encourage journaling over the summer. It can start as just drawing and then develop into a sentence and a picture. It can be about their day or anything from their imagination!



ENTERING 2ND GRADE

2nd Grade Required Book:

Frog and Toad are Friends by Arnold Lobel

On August 24 the students will be asked to bring in a list of 5 books they have read over the summer.

Other suggested series and authors:

The Weight of a Mass: A Tale of Faith by Josephine Nobisso

Amelia Bedelia by Peggy Parish (any book from the series)

A to Z Mysteries by Ron Roy

Cam Jansen by David A. Adler (any book from the series)

Commander Toad Books by Jane Yolen

Dragon Masters Series by Tracey West

Frog and Toad Together by Arnold Lobel

Henry and Mudge Books by Cynthia Rylant

Katie Woo Books by Fran Manushkin

King & Kayla Books by Dori Hillestad Butler

Ling & Ting Books by Grace Lin

Little Bear by Else Holmølund Minarik (any book from the series)

Magic Tree House by Mary Pope Osborne (any book from the series)

Mercy Watson Books by Kate DiCamillo

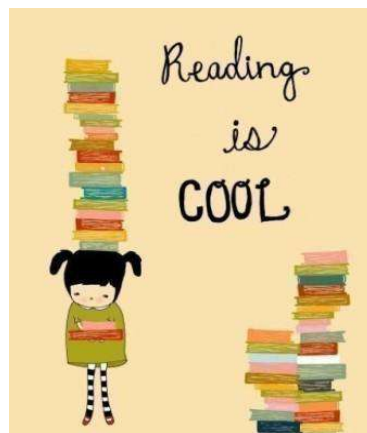
Nate the Great Books by Marjorie Weinman Sharmat

Puppy Place Books by Ellen Miles

The Magic School Bus series

I Am Series by Brad Meltzer

Honeybee: The Busy Life of Apis Mellifera by Candice Fleming



ENTERING 3RD GRADE

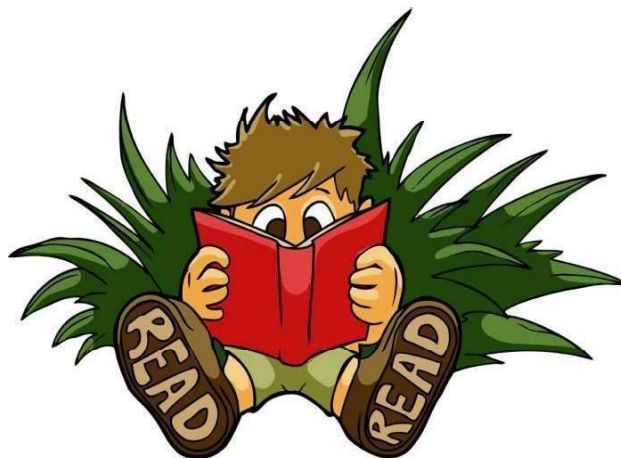
3rd Grade Required Book:

The Mouse and the Motorcycle by Beverly Cleary

Please choose one other book from this list and complete the BOOK REVIEW form (at the end of the lists).

- *Balto and the Great Race* by Elizabeth Kimmel
- *Boxcar Children* by Gertrude Chandler Warner
- *Encyclopedia Brown* by Donald J. Sobel
- *Henry Huggins* by Beverly Cleary
- *Molly's Pilgrim* by Barbara Cohen
- *Ramona the Brave or Beezus and Ramona* by Beverly Cleary

Be ready to discuss and answer questions about the books the first week of school.



ENTERING 4TH GRADE

4th Grade Required Book:

Summer of the Woods, The Virginia Mysteries (Book 1) by Steven K. Smith

Please choose one other book from this list and complete the BOOK REVIEW form (at the end of the lists).

- *James and the Giant Peach* by Roald Dahl
- *Meet Felicity: An American Girl 1774* by Valerie Tripp
- *The Borrowers*, by Mary Norton
- *The Castle in the Attic* by Elizabeth Winthrop
- *The Cricket in Times Square* by George Selden
- *The Indian in the Cupboard* by Lynne Reid Banks
- *The Trumpet of the Swan* by E. B. White
- *Shadows at Jamestown* by Steven Smith
- *The Year of Billy Miller* by Kevin Henkes
- *Blood on the River* by Elisa Carbone

Be ready to discuss and answer questions about the books the first week of school.



ENTERING 5TH GRADE

5th Grade Required Book:

The Tale of Despereaux by Kate DiCamillo

Please choose one other book from this list and complete the BOOK REVIEW form (at the end of the lists).

- *Adventures of a Girl Called Bicycle* by Christina Uss
- *Bridge to Terabithia* by Katherine Patterson
- *The Incredible Journey* by Sheila Burnford
- *A Wrinkle in Time* by Madeleine L'Engle
- *Wonder* by R. J. Palacio
- *Poppy* by Avi
- *The Phantom Tollbooth* by Norton Juster
- *A Fish in a Tree* by Lynda Mullaly Hunt

Be ready to discuss and answer questions about the books the first week of school.



ENTERING 6TH GRADE

6th Grade Required Book:

Restart by Gordon Korman

Please choose one other book from this list and complete the BOOK REVIEW form (at the end of the lists).

- *Anne of Green Gables* by Lucy Maud Montgomery
- *The Book of Three* by Lloyd Alexander
- *Black Beauty* by Anna Sewell
- *Crispin: The Cross of Lead* by Avi
- *Number the Stars* by Lois Lowry
- *Inside Out and Back Again* by Thanhha Lai
- *Elijah of Buxton* by Christopher Paul Curtis

Be ready to discuss and answer questions about the books the first week of school.



ENTERING 7TH GRADE

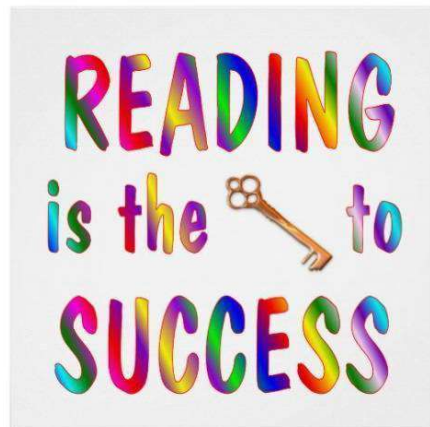
7th Grade Required Book:

The Hobbit or There and Back Again by J.R.R. Tolkien

Please choose one other book from this list and complete the BOOK REVIEW form (at the end of the lists).

- *Little Women* by Louisa May Alcott
- *The Night Diary* by Veera Hiranandani
- *Out of the Dust* by Karen Hesse
- *White Fang* by Jack London
- Freewater by Amina Luqman-Dawson
- *Wildoak* by C.C. Harrington
- *The Blackthorn Key* by Kevin Sands

Be ready to discuss and answer questions about the books the first week of school.



ENTERING 8TH GRADE

8th Grade Required Book:

The Fellowship of the Ring by J.R.R. Tolkien

Please choose one other book from this list and complete the BOOK REVIEW form (at the end of the lists).

- *The Witch of Blackbird Pond* by Elizabeth George Speare
- *The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes* by Arthur Conan Doyle
- *True Confessions of Charlotte Doyle* by Avi
- *The Red Badge of Courage* by Stephen Crane
- *Pride and Prejudice* by Jane Austin

Be ready to discuss and answer questions about the books the first week of school.



"It's called 'reading'. It's how people install new software into their brains"

What is the resolution? (What is the solution to the problem?)



Middle School Summer Reading Assignment-Optional Book

Student: _____

Book: _____

Author: _____

Part One: Characters

Curriculum Objective- Explain how various authors develop their characters.

Directions: Pick three characters in the novel and fill in the information below for each one.

Character's Name	Description-round/flat and dynamic/static	Memorable Moment-List the character's most memorable moment in the novel. Then explain why it was significant

Part Two: Personal Connection Section

Curriculum Objective- Respond to literature by relating it to real life, making historical and multicultural connections.

Directions: Answer each question in paragraph form.

“If you stop to think about it, you’ll have to admit that all the stories in the world consist essentially of twenty-six letters. The letters are always the same, only the arrangement varies. From letters words are formed, from words sentences, from sentences chapters, and from chapters stories.” – Michael Ende

Every writer starts out with the same number of letters to work with when they begin writing a story depending on what language they are using. Explain how the author of your independent reading novel was able to make his or her story unique and compelling for you, as the reader. Pick at least two of the literary elements to include in your response. The literary elements you can choose from include: setting, plot, characters, theme, and tone in your response. Please be specific with your answer and respond in a paragraph that includes at least five sentences.

“Fairy tales are more than true: not because they tell us that dragons exist, but because they tell us that dragons can be beaten.” – Neil Gaiman

Neil Gaiman is referring to the idea that books show us that good can conquer evil and it is important to have courage in our lives. Although many of the books we read are fiction, a large portion of them teach us valuable life lessons. Describe one part of your independent reading book that could be inspirational to someone. Explain why it might help someone overcome the “dragon” in their own life. Please be specific with your answer and respond in a paragraph that includes at least five sentences.

“Once you have read a book you care about, some part of it is always with you.” – Louis L’Amour

What part of this novel will stay with you long after you turn in this assignment? Please be specific with your answer and respond in a paragraph that includes at least five sentences.
