

Dear Rising Eighth Graders,

Can you believe you're already in eighth grade? I am so excited to meet you and spend a year learning a lot and getting ready for high school!

To get ready for the year ahead, there are a few things I'd like you to do this summer:

1. Set up a GoodReads account

GoodReads is a site (and an app!) that can help you track and plan your reading life! How fun! We will use this all year long to record what we have read (and how well we liked it), to keep a list of things we might be interested in reading in the future, and to share book recommendations with one another! Here's what to do:

- **Set up an account** (work with a parent!)
- **Add any books you read and finish this summer & rate them!** (Writing a review isn't necessary unless you'd like to. In which case, please do!)

When we arrive at school again in August, we will all become GoodReads friends with one another so that we can share the books we like.

2. Read all summer long

There is only one piece of required summer reading (see #3 below!) Other than that:

Read *anything* you find interesting -- fiction, nonfiction, easy books, challenging books, graphic novels, books you've been dying to read, books your parents have been bugging you to read.

Just read.

When school is out, start a book. If it's good, finish it! If it's not, find something else. When you finish one book, start a new one. Keep reading until summer is over. Let's see how many books you can read! Let's see how many books you can *love*.

You should be continually reading books (at your own pace) all summer.

If you need recommendations, check out Newbery Award Winners, Printz Award Winners, ask a librarian, ask an adult, or ask me (rodell@stmschool.net)!

3. Choose and read one novel in verse close to the end of the summer:

Please choose one of the following to read. *The book you choose should be something you have not yet read!*

- *Booked* by Kwame Alexander
- *Brown Girl Dreaming* by Jacqueline Woodson
- *Garvey's Choice* by Nikki Grimes
- *One* by Sarah Crossan
- *Audacity* by Melanie Crowder

We will be beginning our year in literature circle discussions of this book and doing a little bit of writing about it. While I will not be collecting anything written from you, it might help you to keep track of:

- Characters you love, hate, and can relate to
- Best and worst moments of the book
- Passages that you find especially interesting, amazing, or emotionally-affecting
- Favorite lines
- How you think the form (poetry) affects the story.

Please don't hesitate to ask any questions that may arise!

Happy Reading,

Mrs. O'Dell