Students entering Ms. Keeler’s and Mrs. Callahan’s classes are required to read a total of TWO books. ****Check your schedule to make sure you are reading the correct book(s) for your class.****

**MS. KEELER’S CLASSES:**

- Students in Ms. Keeler’s class are required to read *Wonder* by R.J. Palacio.
- Students are to complete the assignment on the next page. The assignment will be graded according to the attached rubric.
- Students are expected to be prepared for a test on this novel upon returning to school in September. Therefore, you are encouraged to take notes while you read. You may use the attached “Story Map” to help you with your note-taking.

- **Wonder** by R.J. Palacio

August Pullman is not an ordinary ten-year-old kid. Sure, he’s a huge Star Wars fan, he loves his dog, and he's got a pretty good sense of humor. But August was born with a craniofacial abnormality — a genetic defect that caused his facial features to be severely deformed. His life has never been "normal."

Despite his differences, August and his parents decide to transition him from home school to private school now that he’s entering fifth grade. It’s the start of middle school, they reason, so everyone will be new. But August has to deal with so much more than just being new. Will he make friends? Will he decide to stay at the school? And can the people around him learn to see past his appearance?

This brilliant, sensitive story — narrated not only by August, but also by his older sister, his classmates, and other kids in his life — takes an insightful look at how one person’s differences can affect the lives of so many others.

**MRS. CALLAHAN’S CLASS:**

- Students in Mrs. Callahan’s class are required to read *That Was Then, This Is Now* by S.E. Hinton.
- Students are expected to be prepared for a test on this novel upon returning to school in September. Therefore, you are encouraged to take notes while you read. You may use the attached story map to help you with your note-taking.

- **That Was Then, This Is Now** by S.E. Hinton

Ever since Mark’s parents died, he has been living with Bryon. The boys are more like brothers than mere friends. They've been inseparable—until recently. Something seems to be changing between them, and Bryon can’t figure it out. Is it Cathy, Bryon’s new girlfriend? Is Mark jealous? Bryon is also tired of the street fighting, but Mark seems unable to quit. And where is Mark getting all of that money?

In *That Was Then, This Is Now*, one of her most admired novels, S. E. Hinton paints a richly textured portrait of two boys at a crossroads in their friendship. With careful, intimate strokes, Hinton reveals a boy struggling over whether to protect his best friend or whether to follow his own beliefs about right and wrong.
**MS. KEELER’S & MRS. CALLAHAN’S CLASSES:**

Students in **Ms. Keeler’s and Mrs. Callahan’s classes** are required to choose ONE of the following nonfiction book choices for the second summer reading book.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Book Title</th>
<th>Book Summary</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>The Seven Habits of Highly Effective Teens</strong>&lt;br&gt;by Sean Covey</td>
<td>The Seven Habits of Highly Effective Teenagers speaks directly to teens, using language and real-life scenarios of particular interest to teens. By engaging this audience on their level and without being condescending, Sean Covey addresses the issues that concern young people: relationships, peers, parents, school choices, life choices, and monumental matters about the future — giving them hope, direction, and specific skills to craft extraordinary lives. At a time when everything from planning what to wear to a party to dealing with an alcoholic friend can seem overwhelming frightening, and complex, The Seven Habits of Highly Effective Teenagers provides a simple step-by-step, principle-centered plan to help teens solve problems and not just cope, but to create their own unique destinies.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Behind Rebel Lines: The Incredible Story of Emma Edmonds, Civil War Spy.</strong>&lt;br&gt;by Seymour Reit</td>
<td>In 1861, when war erupted between the States, President Lincoln made an impassioned plea for volunteers. Determined not to remain on the sidelines, Emma Edmonds cropped her hair, donned men's clothing, and enlisted in the Union Army. Posing in turn as a slave, peddler, washerwoman, and fop, Emma became a cunning master of disguise, risking discovery and death at every turn behind Confederate lines. According to the estimates of some historians, as many as 400 women fought in the Civil War disguised as men. One such woman was Emma Edmonds, 21 years old and Canadian born. She felt fiercely patriotic towards her adopted country, and was determined to fight for the Union. Not only did she serve as a field nurse, tending the wounded at the battle sites, but she also served as a Union spy.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Understanding September 11th</strong>&lt;br&gt;by Mitch Frank</td>
<td>On September 11th, America was attacked. But while we know what happened on that tragic day, many of us don't understand why it happened. Time magazine reporter Mitch Frank clearly and concisely explains why, and answers the following essential questions.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- What happened on September 11th?
- Who were the hijackers?
- What is terrorism?
- What is Islam?
- Why does the Middle East matter?
- Why did the terrorists target the United States?
- Why did we go after Afghanistan?
- Who are the Taliban?
- What are the differences between Islamism, Islamic fundamentalism, and Islam?
- Who is Osama bin Laden?
- How has America changed since September 11th?

Written and designed on a level that sixth graders and up can easily comprehend, and filled with pictures, maps, and straightforward explanations, this is the book that will enable young people to understand both the events of 9/11 and the history leading up to it. September 11th is a part of history that Americans should both know and never forget. |
GRADE 8 READING LANGUAGE ARTS SUMMER READING ASSIGNMENTS

ALL work is due on Wednesday, September 4, 2014

Assignment for Wonder - Create a Precept Poster (Miss Keeler’s classes only)

Auggie’s teacher, Mr. Browne, begins his first day of teaching English to his 5th grade class with a lesson on precepts. On the last day of school, she asked her students to mail her a postcard with their personal precepts.

Remember, precepts are “words to live by” or “rules about really important things.” Mr. Browne’s precept for the month of September is: “If you have a choice between being right or being kind, choose kind.”

1. Choose a personal precept that means something to you. It can be something you made up for yourself or something that you’ve read somewhere or heard in a song. (For a list of all of Mr. Browne’s precepts, go to R. J. Palacio’s website http://rjpalacio.com/)
2. Put the quote and the author of the quote on a piece of 12” x 9” poster board. Decorate the poster any way you would like, as long as it is NEAT and shows sincere EFFORT!
3. On the back of the poster board, write a paragraph or two about why you chose this quote and what it means to you. As always, proofread your writing to make sure it is grammatically accurate and clearly organized.
4. You are also expected to be prepared for a test on this novel upon returning to school in September. Therefore, you are encouraged to take notes while you read. You may use the attached “Story Map” to help you with your note-taking.

Assignment for That Was Then, This Is Now (Mrs. Callahan’s class)

1. You do not have to complete an assignment for this book. However, you are expected to be prepared for a test on this novel upon returning to school in September. Therefore, you are encouraged to take notes while you read. You may use the attached “Story Map” to help you with your note-taking.

Assignment for nonfiction book of choice (Miss Keeler’s and Mrs. Callahan’s classes)

1. Complete the attached “Nonfiction Book Topic Chart” worksheet.
2. All work must be written neatly in blue or black pen. (You may also type your work using size 12 font, Arial or Times New Roman.)
3. As always, proofread and revise your work before bringing it to school.
# Story Map

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Title:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Author:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Publication date:</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Setting (Where, When, Time, Place):**

**Major characters:**

**Main conflict (problem):**

**Major event 1**

**Major event 2**

**Major event 3**

**Resolution (how main conflict was dealt with):**
Write 3-5 facts you already know about the topic before reading this book.

1. ___________________________

2. ___________________________

3. ___________________________

4. ___________________________

5. ___________________________

Write 6 new words that you learned from this book.

1. ___________________________

2. ___________________________

3. ___________________________

4. ___________________________

5. ___________________________

6. ___________________________
Write 4-6 new things you learned about the topic from reading this book.

1. 

2. 

3. 

4. 

5. 

6. 

What was the most interesting aspect of this topic that you learned from this book?

Did you think the book did a good job of teaching you about the topic? Be honest! Fill in the stars: