

8th grade Summer Reading & Writing

Welcome to 8th grade, Saint Aloysius students! This coming school year will consist of many different adventures in Reading & Writing. I am very excited to start off the school year discussing these novels and diving into grammar!

In Reading, you will select one of the **5** novels on the following page to read and complete **four** activities. This is a book that you need to purchase for yourselves this summer, we do not have enough school copies that can be distributed for summer enrichment.

For Writing, to stay refreshed on grammar skills, students will complete IXL throughout the summer. The specific topics to complete for IXL's Summer Boost Skill Plan are posted on the school website. IXL log-in information was passed out with the Math summer enrichment. Students will use the same IXL log-in for ELA & Math.

Have a wonderful summer! See you in September!

Summer Reading Incoming 8th grade - current 7th

Choose one of the following books:

Summer of Broken Things — Margaret Peterson Haddix

Fourteen-year-old Avery Armisted and sixteen-year-old Kayla Butts could not be more opposite. The two girls were friends as little kids, but that's ancient history now. It's a huge surprise when Avery's father offers to bring Kayla along on a summer trip to Spain. There, the two uncover a secret their families had hidden from both of them their entire lives. Can the girls put aside their differences and work through it together? Or will the lies and betrayal only push them—and their families—farther apart?

Posted — John David Anderson

When cell phones are banned at Branton Middle School, Frost and his friends Deedee, Wolf, and Bench come up with a new way to communicate: leaving sticky notes for each other all around the school. It catches on, and soon all the kids in school are leaving notes—though for every kind and friendly one, there is a cutting and cruel one as well. In the middle of this, a new girl named Rose arrives at school and sits at Frost's lunch table. Rose is not like anyone else at Branton Middle School, and it's clear that the close circle of friends Frost has made for himself won't easily hold another. As the sticky-note war escalates, and the pressure to choose sides mounts, Frost soon realizes that after this year, nothing will ever be the same.

Black Duck — Janet Taylor Lisle

It is spring 1929, and Prohibition is in full swing. So when Ruben and Jeddy find a dead body washed up on the shore of their small coastal Rhode Island town, they are sure it has something to do with smuggling liquor. Soon the boys, along with Jeddy's strong-willed sister, Marina, are drawn in, suspected by rival bootlegging gangs of taking something crucial off the dead man. Then Ruben meets the daring captain of the Black Duck, the most elusive smuggling craft of them all, and it isn't long before he's caught in a war between two of the most dangerous prohibition gangs.

When — Victoria Laurie

Maddie Fynn is a shy girl cursed with an eerie intuitive ability: she sees a series of unique digits hovering above the foreheads of each person she encounters. Maddie and her family realize that these mysterious digits are actually death dates, and just like birthdays, everyone has one. Forced by her mother to use her ability to make extra money, Maddie identifies the quickly approaching death date of one client's young son, but because her ability only allows her to see the when and not the how, she's unable to offer any more insight. When the boy goes missing on that exact date, law enforcement turns to Maddie. Soon, Maddie is entangled in a homicide investigation, and more young people disappear and are later found murdered. A suspect for the investigation, a target for the murderer, and attracting the attention of a mysterious young admirer who may be connected to it all, Maddie's whole existence is about to be turned upside down. Can she right things before it's too late?

Are You Experienced? — Jordan Sonnenblick

Rich is fifteen and plays guitar. When his girlfriend asks him to perform at a protest rally, he jumps at the chance. Unfortunately, the police show up, and so does Rich's dad. He's in big trouble. Again. To make matters worse, Rich's dad always gets depressed this time of year. This happens near the anniversary of his uncle's death, but whenever Rich asks questions, his dad shuts down. Frustrated, Rich breaks into a locked cabinet that holds his dad's prized possession: an electric guitar signed by Jimi Hendrix. Before he knows it, Rich is transported to the side of a road in Upstate New York with a beautiful girl bending over him. It will take him a while to realize it's 1969, he's at Woodstock, and the girl's friends includes his fifteen-year-old dad and his uncle, who's still alive. What Rich learns, does, and who he meets, could change his life forever.

Choice Board for Summer Reading
Incoming 8th grade - current 7th
Pick **FOUR** activities on the choice board.

Think of a few songs that would compliment this story? Create a book playlist of 7-10 songs.	Create and award for this book and explain why it won. The award can be for the whole book or individual parts like characters or plot.	Sketch an image of an important/your favorite scene. Stick figures are ok but use details in the other elements.	Write a poem, song, or rap about one of the characters from the novel. What are they most known for?
Make a collage for your book with pictures you find online, or hand drawn. What 10 images would represent this story?	Choose a favorite quote from the book. Why did this quote stand out? Would it make a good Life Motto?	If you could hear the same story from another person's point of view, who would you choose? How would the story be different?	Discuss similarities and differences between this book and another book you have read. Possibly use a Venn Diagram.
Convince your teacher this book absolutely should (or should not) be taught next year. Support your opinion with specific events in the story.	Make a map of important places where the story takes place. Label with the reason why each place is significant.	Compose a letter to the author (neatly written or typed) suggesting an idea for a sequel. What do you want to see continued or updated?	Analyze the title of the book. Does it fit? What else could it be called? Write three (3) alternate titles and explain why they might work.
Summarize this novel in the fewest words possible. Aim for 30 words or less	Write a review for this book. Would you give it a thumbs up or a thumbs down? Why? Use examples from the book in your answer.	Draw a portrait of your favorite character. Include details from the story in the person's image.	Help it sell! Design a slogan for this book and use it in an ad that would encourage someone else to read it.

Incoming 8th Grade - Current 7th Grade Summer Reading Rubric

Name _____

	5 Excellent	3 Good	1 Weak
Content & Accuracy	All four choices were completed correctly. Written activities are in complete sentences and have proper grammar & mechanics (punctuation & capitalization)	2-3 activities completed correctly. Most written responses have proper grammar and mechanics, but there are some errors.	0-2 activities were completed correctly. There are multiple grammatical and mechanical errors in writing.
Completeness	All four choices are complete.	Three choices are complete, and there is incomplete or missing information.	More than one part of the choice board is missing or incomplete.
Neatness & Creativity	A great deal of effort & work was put toward these assignments. Handwriting & work is neat, organized and well done.	Some work & thought was put into the choice board, but not every assignment is neat, orderly & organized.	Work looks rushed, and best effort is not apparent. Sometimes there is sloppy handwriting and/or disorganized work.
Quality of Effort	Invested time & shows real effort. Final project is clear, neat & easy to read.	Mostly clear & neat, but more effort needed to reach Excellent Level.	Lack of effort. Seems to be thrown together or is unclear.
Shows understanding of novel	Project shows full understanding of novel.	Most of the project shows understanding of the novel.	Project shows little specific understanding of the novel.
Creativity	Fabulous!	Looks good	Lacking creativity

Total points _____/30