**LOGANVILLE MIDDLE SCHOOL**

**Summer Reading List**

**For Rising 7th Grade Students**

**2014-2015**

**Burg, Ann- Serafina’s Promise-** Serafina is an 11-year-old Haitian struggling to keep her dream of becoming a doctor alive. Living in a desolate mountain village, Serafina toils at her daily chores while planning to attend school in the requisite uniform and shoes. Serafina has a warm family, a true friend in Julie Marie, and an encouraging woman doctor, who all come to support her vision. Then a flood washes away the family home, and the roaring stampede of an earthquake devastates the city of Port-au-Prince, where Serafina’s father works and Julie Marie lives. In this novel in verse, the author tells the story with rhythmic Creole and Haitian proverbs and sayings that capture life’s poignancy and hardships, including a message that Serafina has learned from an early age: “If you want your eggs to hatch, sit on them yourself.”

**Davis, Sampson- *We Beat the Street*-** Growing upon the rough streets of Newark, New Jersey, Rameck, George, and Sampson could easily have followed their childhood friend into drug dealing, gangs, and prison. However, when a presentation at their school made the three boys aware of the opportunities available to them in the medical and dental professions, they made a pact among themselves that they would become doctors. It took a lot of determination-and a lot of support from one another- but despite all the hardships along the way, the three succeeded.

**Haddix, Margaret-Petersen- *Double Identity***- One October evening, Bethany’s parents drive her to another state to stay with an aunt she never knew existed. Left confused and without a way to contact her parents, the 12-year-old tries to figure out the reason behind their strange behavior and learns some family secrets in the process.

**Martin, Ann- *A Dog’s Life: Autobiography of a* *Stray-*** Squirrel and her brother Bone begin their lives in a toll shed behind someone’s summer house. Their mother nurtures them and teachers them the many skills they will need to survive as stray dogs. When their mother is taken from them suddenly and too soon, the puppies are forced to make their own way in the world, facing humans both gentle and brutal, busy highways, other animals and the changing seasons. When Bone and Squirrel become separated, Squirrel must fend for herself, and in the process, she makes two friends who, in very different ways, define her fate.

**Mass, Wendy-*Every Soul a Star***- At Moon Shadow, an isolated campground, thousands have gathered to catch a glimpse of a rare and extraordinary total eclipse of the sun. Three lives are about to be changed forever:

Ally- she likes the simple things in life: labyrinths, star-gazing, and comet-hunting. Her home, the campground, is a part of who she is, and she refuses to imagine it any other way.

Bree- she is popular, gorgeous (everybody says so), a future homecoming queen for sure. She wears her beauty like a suit of armor, but what is she trying to hide?

Jack: he is overweight and awkward, and he is used to spending time alone. When opportunity knocks, he finds himself in situations he never would have imagined.

**Preller, James- *Bystander-*** Eric is the new kid in 7th grade. Griffin wants to be his friend. When you’re new in town, it’s hard to know who to hang out with- and who to avoid. Griffin seems cool, confident, and popular, but something isn’t right about him. He always seems to be in the middle of bad things, and if he doesn’t like you, you better watch your back. As Eric gets drawn deeper into Griffin’s dark world, he begins to see the truth about him: he’s a liar, a bully, and a thief. Eric wants to break away and do the right thing, but in one shocking moment, he goes from being a bystander to the bully’s next victim.

**Spinelli, Jerry – *Loser*** – This book details the childhood of Donald Zinkoff, focusing on his life from the first through sixth grades. Most readers will relate to either knowing or being a Donald Zinkoff at some point in their lives. Zinkoff is usually the last person picked for athletic teams, his flute consistently hits the wrong note during concerts, and he is occasionally too eager at the wrong times.

**\*\*Students should read at least 2 books on the summer reading list.**