**LOGANVILLE MIDDLE SCHOOL**

**Summer Reading List**

**For Rising 8th Grade Students**

**2014-2015**

**Barron, T.A.- *The Lost Years of Merlin*** - Washed up on the shores of ancient Wales, the boy had no home, no memory and no name... he was determined to find all three. This best-selling series follows the adventures and training of young Merlin on the mist-shrouded isle of Fincayra, an enchanted land between earth and sky that is being destroyed by blight. With this land's inhabitants to guide him, the boy will learn that Fincayra's fate and his own quest are strangely intertwined. He is destined to become the greatest wizard of all time--known to all as Merlin.

**Bauer, Joan – *Stand Tall*** - Size matters, but Tree needs convincing. At six feet, three and a half inches, he's the tallest seventh grader in the history of his school, and people expect big things. But he's not good at basketball, he looks much older than he feels, and his parents' divorce is all too new. He copes by helping people like his grandpa, a Vietnam vet who's just had part of a leg amputated, and Sophie, a new girl who's being taunted at school.

**Draper, Sharon- *Out of My Mind-*** Melody is not like most people. She cannot walk or talk, but she has a photographic memory; she can remember every detail of everything she has ever experienced. She is smarter than most of the adults who try to diagnose her and smarter than her classmates in her integrated classroom- the very same classmates who dismiss her as mentally challenged because she cannot tell them otherwise. However, Melody refuses to be defined by cerebral palsy, and she is determined to let everyone know it…somehow.

**Hobbs, Will – *The Maze*** - Rick, a fourteen-year-old foster child, escapes from a juvenile detention facility near Las Vegas and travels to Canyonlands National Park in Utah where he meets a bird biologist working on a project to reintroduce condors to the wild.

**Leyson, Leon- *The Boy on the Wooden Box***- Leon Leyson (born Leib Lezjon) was only ten years old when the Nazis invaded Poland and his family was forced to relocate to the Krakow ghetto. With incredible luck, perseverance, and grit, Leyson was able to survive the cruelty of the Nazis. Ultimately, it was the generosity and cunning of one man, a man named Oskar Schindler, who saved Leon Leyson’s life, and the lives of his mother, his father, and two of

his four siblings, by adding their names to his list of workers in his factory—a list that became world renowned: Schindler’s List

**Peck, Richard – *A Long Way from Chicago: A Novel in Stories*** - These seven stories tell of the seven summers that Joey and his sister Mary Alice spend with their no nonsense grandmother in rural Illinois during the Depression. As she interacts with the colorful characters of her small rural town, Grandma continually astonishes her grandchildren with her outrageous schemes and humorous antics.

**Schmidt, Gary- *Okay for Now*-** In this companion novel to The Wednesday Wars, Doug struggles to be more that the “skinny thug” that some people think him to be. He finds an unlikely ally in Lil Spicer, who gives him the strength to endure an abusive father, the suspicions of a town, and the return of his oldest brother, forever scarred, from Vietnam.

**Sheinkin, Steve- Lincoln’s Grave Robbers-** The action begins in October of 1875, as Secret Service agents raid the Fulton, Illinois, workshop of master counterfeiter Ben Boyd. Soon after Boyd is hauled off to prison, members of his counterfeiting ring gather in the back room of a smoky Chicago saloon to discuss how to spring their ringleader. Their plan: grab Lincoln's body from its Springfield tomb, stash it in the sand dunes near Lake Michigan, and demand, as a ransom, the release of Ben Boyd --and $200,000 in cash. From here, the action alternates between the conspirators, the Secret Service agents on their trail, and the undercover agent moving back and forth between the two groups.

**Spinelli, Jerry – *Crash*** - Seventh-grader John "Crash" Coogan has always been comfortable with his tough, aggressive behavior, until his relationship with an unusual Quaker boy and his grandfather's stroke make him consider the meaning of friendship and the importance of family.

**\*\*Students are encouraged to read at least 2 books from the list during the summer.**