

# PELHAM MIDDLE SCHOOL



*Lynn M. Sabia, Principal*  
*Sean A. Llewellyn, Assistant Principal*

June, 2019

Dear Parents,

Attached, you will find the supply list and summer reading list for incoming eighth grade students.

J.K. Rowling once stated, "I think it's the books that you read when you're young that live with you forever." Reading is not only a medium for transmitting information but also a way to travel to worlds beyond our own, nurturing our imaginations, our minds, and our spirits. While reading, we can explore other cultures, new ideas, and unfamiliar people facing challenges similar to ours. Whether it is a story of a struggle for civil rights in America or a struggle for virtue in a Tolkien novel like *Lord of the Rings*, books have the power to capture our curiosity and help us see the world with new eyes.

To encourage these journeys, we are providing reading lists of suggested titles to guide students in their reading choices. Please refer to the appropriate list for your child by grade level. These lists were compiled by the classroom teachers, the library media specialist, and the Pelham Public Library. Our goal is for students to read during the summer as a recreational and pleasurable activity. A 2001 Report of the National Reading Panel by J.W. Cunningham states that "the more children read, the better their fluency, vocabulary, and comprehension." We believe that summer reading is critical to our students' overall development and should be a joint responsibility of the school and home.

All middle school students should read a minimum of **three** books. These books may, but do not have to, come from the suggested reading list. We encourage you to assist your child in fulfilling this requirement. Browsing titles at the Pelham Public Library or at a local bookstore is an opportunity to support good reading choices. Please keep in mind that many young adult books deal with sensitive or more mature themes or content. Therefore, previewing the books before your child begins to read is suggested. **At the end of the summer, each student should complete the form on the last page of the reading list. This form asks for a list of the three books that your child chose to read along with a parent or guardian signature. These forms will be collected during the first week of school in September.**

Some of the titles may also be available on audio and would make for wonderful listening on long trips. You may also want to read the books your child selects so that you can talk about them together. We would like Pelham Middle School to be a community of readers, and need your support in achieving this goal.

Have a wonderful summer!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lynn M. Sabia".

Lynn Sabia  
Principal

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Dr. Maria H. Thompson".

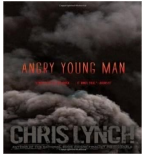
Maria Thompson, Ed.D.  
Director of Humanities, K-12

***"An IB World School Offering the Middle Years Programme"***

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# 2018-2019 Summer Reading List – Incoming 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> Grades

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## **Angry Young Man** – Chris Lynch

Alexander (Xan) is an awkward loner who hasn't been able to find his place in the world. His half-brother, Robert, seems exactly the opposite. When Robert suspects Xan is traveling down a dangerous path of extremism, he is determined to intervene before it's too late. (Fiction)

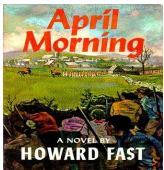
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## **Anything But Typical** – Nora Raleigh Baskin

Jason, an autistic teenager with a talent for creative writing, struggles to find acceptance in his middle school community. (Fiction)

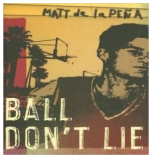
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## **April Morning** – Howard Fast

The American Revolution leaps to life in this unforgotten account of the Battle of Lexington. It is also the story of a father and son who are at odds. (Historical Fiction)

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## **Ball Don't Lie** – Matt De La Pena

A teenager (Grayson Boucher) uses basketball to overcome his emotional scars and obsessive-compulsive personality disorder. (Sports/Realistic Fiction)

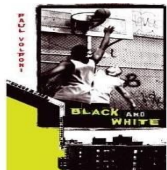
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## **Bar Code Tattoo** - Suzanne Weyn

In the near future, Kayla finds herself running for her life when she refuses to get the mandatory bar code tattoo on her seventeenth birthday--a decision that renders her a social outcast and places her family in grave danger. (Science Fiction)

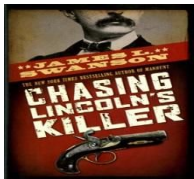
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## **Black and White** – Paul Volponi

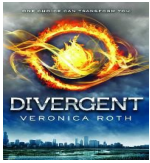
Two star high school basketball players, one black and one white, experience the justice system differently after committing a crime together and getting caught. (Realistic Fiction)

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## **Chasing Lincoln's Killer** - James Swanson

This is a biographical account of John Wilkes Booth's plot to kill the president and Booth's 12 days on the run following Lincoln's assassination. (Non-Fiction Biography)



**Divergent** - Veronica Roth

In Beatrice Prior's dystopian Chicago world, society is divided into five factions, each dedicated to the cultivation of a particular virtue—Candor (the honest), Abnegation (the selfless), Dauntless (the brave), Amity (the peaceful), and Erudite (the intelligent). On an appointed day of every year, all sixteen-year-olds must select the faction to which they will devote the rest of their lives. (Science Fiction/Adventure)

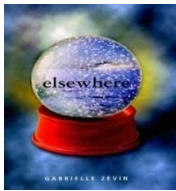
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**Drums, Girls and Dangerous Pie** -Jordan Sonnenblick

Thirteen-year-old Steven has a totally normal life until his younger brother Jeffrey is diagnosed with leukemia and Steven's world is turned upside down. A heartwarming journey through a year in the life of a family in crisis. (Realistic Fiction)

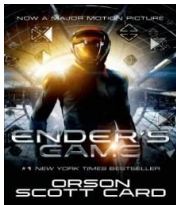
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**Elsewhere** - Gabrielle Zevin

Elsewhere is where fifteen-year-old Liz Hall ends up, after she has died. It is a place so like Earth, yet completely different. (Magic Realism)

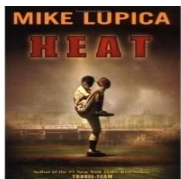
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**Ender's Game** – Scott Orson Card

Government agencies breed child geniuses in order to combat the next alien attack. A brilliant boy, Andrew “Ender” Wiggins, makes the cut for military training, but suffers from his own psychological battles. (Science Fiction)

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**Heat** - Mike Lupica

Pitching prodigy Michael Arroyo is on the run from social services after being banned from playing Little League baseball because rival coaches doubt he is only 12 years old, and he has no parents to offer them proof. (Sports/fiction)

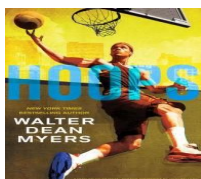
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**Hero** - Mike Lupica

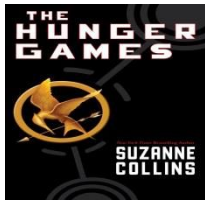
In this fast-paced adventure story, 14 year-old Zach Harriman races to uncover the mystery behind his dad's death, while also learning to control his new super-hero powers. (Fantasy)

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**Hoops** - Walter Dean Myers

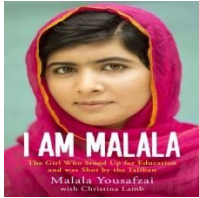
A teenage basketball player from Harlem is befriended by a former professional player who, after being forced to quit because of a point shaving scandal, hopes to prevent other young athletes from repeating his mistake.(Sports/Fiction)



### **Hunger Games - Suzanne Collins**

Long ago, the districts waged war on the Capitol and were defeated. As part of the surrender terms, each district agreed to send one boy and one girl to appear in an annual televised event called "The Hunger Games," a fight to the death. Sixteen-year-old Katniss Everdeen, is forced to represent her district in the Games.

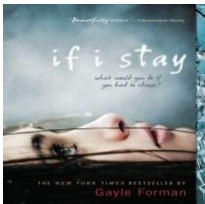
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### **I am Malala - Malala Yousafzai, co-written by Patricia McCormick**

Malala Yousafzai was only 10 years old when the Taliban took control of her region. They said music was a crime. They said women weren't allowed to go to the market. They said girls couldn't go to school. Malala was taught to stand up for what she believes which leads to very serious consequences for her. (Non-Fiction/Autobiography)

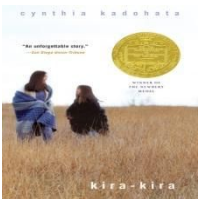
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### **If I Stay - Gayle Forman**

In the blink of an eye everything changes. Seventeen-year-old Mia has no memory of the accident; she can only recall what happened afterwards. Little by little she struggles to put together the pieces --- to figure out what she has lost, what she has left and the very difficult choice she must make. (Fiction)

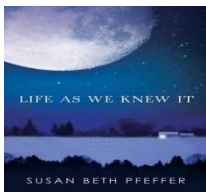
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### **Kira-Kira - Cynthia Kadohata**

The middle daughter in a Japanese-American family tells the story of their struggles to build a better life. (Historical Fiction)

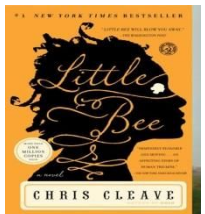
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### **Life As We Knew It – Susan Beth Pfeffer**

A meteor hits the moon and in one moment the whole world changes. Food and heat are almost nonexistent. One girl journals her family's desperate struggle for survival. (Science Fiction)

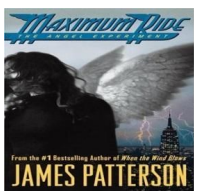
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### **Little Bee – Chris Cleave**

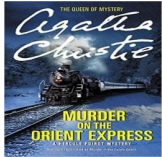
What happens on the beach is brutal, and it braids the fates of a 16-year-old Nigerian orphan (who calls herself Little Bee) and a well-off British couple --- journalists who are trying to repair their strained marriage with a free holiday, and who should have stayed behind their resort's walls. (Fiction)

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### **Maximum Ride - James Patterson**

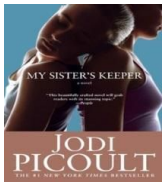
Fourteen-year-old Maximum Ride, better known as Max, knows what it's like to soar above the world. She and all the members of the "flock" --- Fang, Iggy, Nudge, Gasman and Angel --- are just like ordinary kids - ordinary kids who have wings and can fly. Sounds fun, but their lives can morph into nightmares any time! (Fantasy/Adventure)



**Murder on the Orient Express - Agatha Christie**

An unpopular billionaire is murdered on board a famous train and everyone on board is a suspect. (Fiction/Mystery)

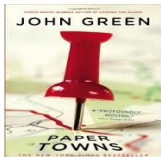
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**My Sister's Keeper - Jodi Picoult**

Conceived as a marrow donor for her gravely ill sister, Anna Fitzgerald has undergone countless surgeries and medical procedures in her short life. When Anna sues her parents for emancipation, it sets off a court case that threatens to destroy the family for good. (Fiction)

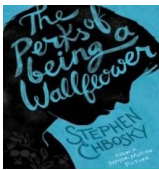
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**Paper Towns - John Green**

Margo Roth Spiegelman beckons Quentin Jacobsen in the middle of the night --- dressed like a ninja and plotting an ingenious campaign of revenge. After a lifetime of loving Margo from afar, things are finally looking up for Q . . . until Margo vanishes. But there are clues. And they're for Q. (Fiction/Mystery)

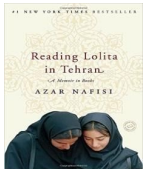
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**Perks of Being a Wallflower - Stephen Chbosky**

Going through the world of high school and the world of first dates, family dramas and new friends. (Fiction/Coming of age)

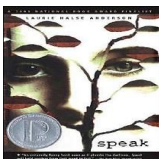
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**Reading Lolita in Tehran - Azar Nafisi**

Every Thursday morning for two years in the Islamic Republic of Iran, a bold and inspired teacher named Azar Nafisi secretly gathered seven of her most committed female students to read forbidden Western classics. (Memoir)

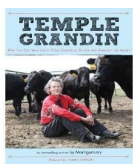
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**Speak - Laurie Halse Anderson**

This is the story of what happens to a girl who is ostracized by her peers after busting an end-of-summer party. (Fiction)

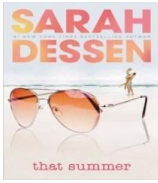
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**Temple Grandin: How the Girl who loved cows embraced Autism and changed the world - Temple Grandin**

This biography explores the life and mind of Temple Grandin, a brilliant autistic woman who revolutionized the livestock industry. (Non-Fiction/Biography)

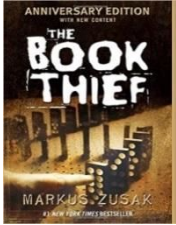




### **That Summer - Sarah Dessen**

For fifteen-year-old Haven, life is changing too quickly. She's nearly six feet tall, her father is getting remarried, and her sister—the always perfect Ashley—is planning a wedding of her own. Haven wishes things could just go back to the way they were. Then an old boyfriend of Ashley's reenters the picture, and through him, Haven sees the past for what it really was, and comes to grips with the future. (Realistic Fiction)

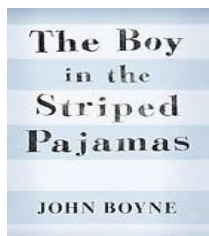
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### **The Book Thief - Markus Zusak**

It is 1939 in Nazi Germany. Liesel Meminger is a foster girl living outside of Munich who scratches out a meager existence for herself by stealing something she can't resist --- books. (Historical Fiction)

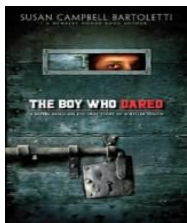
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### **The Boy in the Striped Pajamas - John Boyne**

Bruno and his family are moving to a place where there is no one to play with, nothing to do and nothing to see except for a long fence. Then one day he meets a new boy, but he doesn't know about the consequences that come with being friends with him. (Historical Fiction)

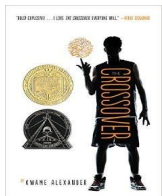
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### **The Boy Who Dared - Susan Campbell Bartoletti**

In jail awaiting his execution, a German teenager recalls Hitler's rise to power and the courage he found to stand up against the Nazi regime. (Historical Fiction)

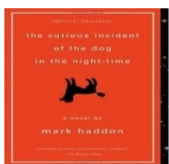
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### **The Crossover - Kwame Alexander**

14-year-old twin basketball stars wrestle with highs and lows on and off the court as their father ignores his declining health. (Sports/Realistic Fiction/Verse)

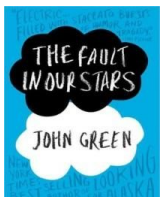
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### **The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night - Mark Haddon**

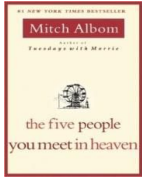
A math genius who is afraid of people pretends to be Sherlock Holmes and investigates the murder of a neighbor's dog. He uncovers more mysteries than he expected. (Mystery)

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### **The fault in our stars - John Green**

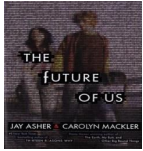
Despite the tumor-shrinking medical miracle that has bought her a few years, Hazel has almost given up. But when a gorgeous plot twist named Augustus Waters suddenly appears at Cancer Kid Support Group, Hazel's story is about to be completely rewritten. (Fiction)



### **The Five People You Meet in Heaven - Mitch Albom**

A war veteran who feels trapped in a meaningless life fixing rides at a seaside amusement park. While trying to save a little girl's life, he dies in a tragic accident. This story focuses on what happens in the afterlife – a place where your earthly life is explained to you by five people who were in it. (Fiction)

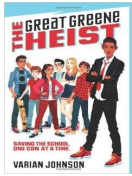
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### **The Future of Us - Jay Asher**

1996 - Most American high school students have never used the internet. Emma and Josh discover themselves on Facebook, 15 years in the future. Everybody wonders what their destiny will be. Josh and Emma are about to find out. (Fiction)

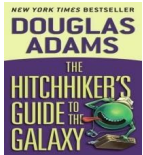
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### **The Great Greene Heist - Varian Johnson**

Jackson Greene has a reputation as a prankster at Maplewood Middle School, but after the last disaster he is trying to go straight--but when it looks like Keith Sinclair may steal the election for school president from Jackson's former best friend Gabriela, he assembles a team to make sure Keith does not succeed.

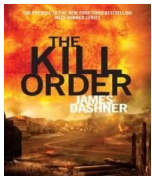
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### **The Hitchhikers Guide to the Galaxy - Douglas Adams**

Seconds before the Earth is demolished to make way for a galactic freeway, an earthman is saved by his friend. Together they journey through the galaxy. (Science Fiction/Fantasy)

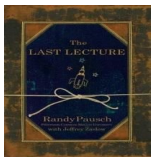
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### **The Kill Order - James Dashner**

Prequel to the Maze Runner Trilogy (Science Fiction/Adventure)

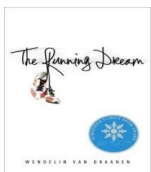
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### **The Last Lecture - Randy Pausch**

When Randy Pausch, a computer science professor at Carnegie Mellon, was asked to give a lecture, he didn't have to imagine it as his last, since he had recently been diagnosed with terminal cancer. But the lecture he gave--"Really Achieving Your Childhood Dreams"--wasn't about dying. It was about the importance of overcoming obstacles, of enabling the dreams of others, of seizing every moment.

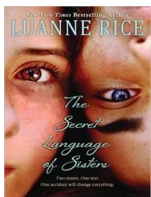
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### **The Running Dream - Gwendelin Van Draanen**

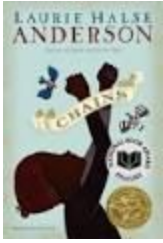
Track star Jessica loses a leg in a terrible car accident. Her road to recovery is a long one, but she can't give up her dream of running again. (Realistic Fiction)

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### **The Secret Language of Sisters - Luanne Rice**

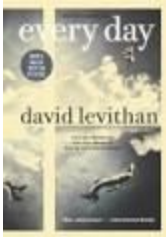
When Ruth Ann (Roo) McCabe responds to a text message while she's driving, her life as she knows it ends. (Fiction)



**Chains** - Laurie Halse Anderson

Thirteen-year-old Ruth, and her sister Isabel, fight for their own freedom during the Revolutionary War. (Historical Fiction)

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**Every Day** - David Levithan

The main character, A, wakes up in a different body every morning. He runs into complications when he begins to emotional attach to someone he does not wish to live without. (Fiction)

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**Never Fall Down** - Patricia McCormick

Written from the childhood perspective of Arn Chorn-Pond, this story explores his involvement in the Cambodian genocide. (Historical Fiction)

**\*\*PARENTS/GUARDIANS:** Please be reminded that some young adult titles may contain more mature content or deal with sensitive matters. Please consider previewing your child's selections.



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*Hidden Figures*, by Margot Lee Shetterly.**



# PMS SUMMER READING LOG

Please complete this form as legibly as possible. Your English teacher will collect it during the first week of school.

Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Book Title #1 \_\_\_\_\_

Author \_\_\_\_\_

Book Title #2 \_\_\_\_\_

Author \_\_\_\_\_

Book Title #3 \_\_\_\_\_

Author \_\_\_\_\_

**Student Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Parent/Guardian  
Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_