May 4, 2020

Dear Parents and Incoming Seventh Graders,

We are excited about our active and engaging reading curriculum at Greenhill and regard summer as a great opportunity for our students to read every chance they get. The attached list of titles offers exciting journeys into worlds like and very unlike our own and will, we feel sure, enrich your children’s imagination and broaden their social awareness.

All students must read the required book *Unbroken: An Olympian’s Journey from Airman to Castaway to Captive*, by Laura Hillenbrand. Please note that this is the author’s ADAPTATION for Young Adults of her original book. **Taking notes in their copy of Unbroken is required for incoming seventh graders who were at Greenhill in sixth grade. For students who are new to Greenhill, this is not required.**

In addition to *Unbroken*, each student needs to read a minimum of **two more** books **not** previously read from the attached list. The other two selections will be the spur for activities and assignments in the fall.

All of us hope that you and your child will have a relaxing summer full of good books and the time to read them.

Sincerely,

Susan Palmer  
Head of Middle School

Katie Peterson  
Middle School English Department Chair

Jack Fisher  
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7th Grade English Faculty

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Attachments
Summer Reading List for Incoming Seventh Graders

All students must read the required book *Unbroken: An Olympian’s Journey from Airman to Castaway to Captive*, by Laura Hillenbrand. Please note that this is the author’s ADAPTATION for Young Adults of her original book.

In addition, students must read a minimum of two additional books from the list below that they have **not** read before. The two books should come from **two different categories**: fiction, nonfiction, mystery, fantasy, or historical fiction. The titles are organized by genre and alphabetically by author. Most authors on this list have won one or more awards; therefore, other titles by the same authors on this list may be substituted for credit. The objective is for students to experience three different authors and different genres.

**Special note**: Incoming seventh graders are encouraged to read *The Westing Game* if they have not read it before and it sounds interesting, as one of our seventh grade texts (*The Parker Inheritance*) references it.

*The Westing Game*, Raskin
The mysterious death of an eccentric millionaire brings together an unlikely assortment of heirs who must uncover the circumstances of his death before they can claim their inheritance.

Some book descriptions courtesy of Amazon.com and Follett.

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**Be Prepared**, Bros gol
All Vera wants to do is fit in—but that's not easy for a Russian girl in the suburbs. Her friends live in fancy houses and their parents can afford to send them to the best summer camps. Vera's single mother can't afford that sort of luxury, but there's one summer camp in her price range—Russian summer camp.

**The Dark Unwinding**, Cameron
A spine-tingling tale of intrigue and heart-racing romance takes place in 1852. Sent to commit her uncle to an asylum, Katherine finds him to be a genius who has saved 900 people from workhouses. Should she protect them or her inheritance?

**Matched**, Condie
Matched series
Cassia trusts the Society to make the right choices for her: what to read, watch, and believe. So when Xander's face appears on-screen at her Matching ceremony, Cassia knows he is her ideal mate . . . until she sees Ky Markham's face.

**Everything I Know About You**, Dee
Misfit Tally is forced to room with queen bee Ava on the seventh grade's extended field trip to Washington, D.C., and discovers several surprising things about her roommate, including the possibility of an eating disorder.

**Maybe He Just Likes You**, Dee
When boys in her class start touching seventh-grader Mila and making her feel uncomfortable, she does not want to tell her friends or mother until she reaches her breaking point.

**Gym Candy**, Deuker
(available as ebook on Follett Discover)
Freshman running back Mick Johnson works hard to make his dream of football stardom come true and finds the edge he needs to become bigger, faster, and stronger with the help of steroids despite consequences to his health and social life.

**Dead End in Norvelt**, Gantos
Newbery Award
Jack is “grounded for life” for 2 months by his feuding parents. He has plenty of excitement and shocks as he helps a neighbor type obituaries filled with twisted promises, voices from the past, Hells Angels . . . and possibly murder.

**Refugee**, Gratz
Three kids go on harrowing journeys in search of refuge. All will face unimaginable dangers -- from drownings to bombings to betrayals. And although Josef, Isabel, and Mahmoud are separated by continents and decades, shocking connections will tie their stories together in the end. This action-packed novel tackles topics both timely and timeless: courage, survival, and the quest for home.

My Plain Jane, Hand
You may think you know the story. Penniless orphan Jane Eyre begins a new life as a governess at Thornfield Hall, where she meets one dark, brooding Mr. Rochester--and, Reader, she marries him. Or does she?

The Outsiders, Hinton
No one ever said life was easy. But Ponyboy is pretty sure that he's got things figured out. He knows that he can count on his brothers, Darry and Sodapop. And he knows that he can count on his friends—true friends who would do anything for him, like Johnny and Two-Bit. But not on much else besides trouble with the Socs, a vicious gang of rich kids whose idea of a good time is beating up on “greasers” like Ponyboy. At least he knows what to expect—until the night someone takes things too far.

Knockout, Holt
When formerly medically fragile Levi discovers his love for boxing, he finds himself in the ring with those who love him most. He knows he's strong enough to fight for his life but can he convince everyone else to believe in him, too?

All Summer Long, Larson
Thirteen-year-old Bina has a long summer ahead of her. She and her best friend, Austin, usually do everything together, but he's off to soccer camp for a month. So it's up Bina to see how much fun she can have on her own. At first, it's a lot of boredom, but things look up when Bina finds an un-likely companion in Austin's older sister, Charlie.

It Wasn't Me, Levy
When Theo's photography project is vandalized, the five students nearby all claim it was not them, so Theo's favorite teacher suggests they all spend vacation week together and get to the truth.

Call of the Wild, London
A powerful dog is stolen from his warm, California home and shipped to Alaska to work as a sled dog for the gold prospectors during the Gold Rush days.

Under the Mesquite, McCall
Lupita, a budding actor and poet in a Mexican American family, struggles with the responsibility of caring for her siblings during her mother's battle with cancer and takes refuge in a mesquite tree to write and gain strength. Told in verse.

The False Prince, Nielsen
A civil war is brewing. Conner devises a plan to find an impersonator of the king's long-lost son and install him as a puppet prince. Orphans are recruited to compete for the role, and Sage must play the prince or be killed.

Strange Birds: A Field Gyuide to Ruffling Feathers, Perez
After Ofelia, Aster, Cat, and Lane fail to persuade a local girls club to change an outdated tradition, they form an alternative group that shakes up their sleepy Florida town. Includes tips for beginning birders, characteristics of crystals, a cookie recipe, tips for aspiring journalists, directions for creating badges, and facts about the killing of birds for fashion.

Okay for Now, Schmidt
Doug, 14, has just moved to a new town. Will everyone think he is like his thug of an older brother or his corrupt, abusive father? He just wants to be treated fairly, and with new friends, Doug may find out what it’s like to be “okay for now.”
After Ever After, Sonnenblick (other title: Drums, Girls & Dangerous Pier)
Jeffrey, a cancer survivor now in 8th grade, bonds with Tad, also a cancer survivor. They make a pact to help Tad walk at graduation without a wheelchair and Jeffrey pass his math test to graduate.

Well That Was Awkward, Vail
Gracie has never felt like this before. One day, she suddenly can’t breathe, can’t walk, can’t anything—and the reason is standing right there in front of her, all tall and weirdly good-looking: A.J. But it turns out A.J. likes not Gracie but Gracie’s beautiful best friend, Sienna.

The Running Dream, Van Draanen
A track star, Jessica loses a leg in a car accident. As she copes with a prosthetic, people act like she's not there, which is how she treated a girl with CP, who is going to tutor her in math, a girl who sees right into the heart of her.

Now Is the Time for Running, Williams
Deo, a soccer player in Zimbabwe, and his brother, Innocent, must run for their lives when the soldiers arrive. They face prejudice and poverty as refugees and must rely on the kindness of others. Will Deo's love of soccer help them survive?

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Nonfiction

Becoming Kareem: Growing Up On and Off the Court, Abdul-Jabbar
An autobiography about Kareem Abdul-Jabbar and his life growing up in New York, becoming the basketball star he's known to be, and getting involved in the world around him as an activist for social change.

If Stones Could Speak: Unlocking the Secrets of Stonehenge, Aronson and Pearson
Text, photographs, and explanatory maps and illustrations document archaeologist Mike Parker Pearson's study of Stonehenge and the surrounding area, describing what he found and what the artifacts reveal about the site and its history.

Hitler Youth: Growing Up in Hitler’s Shadow, Bartoletti
Takes a look at the youth organizations Adolf Hitler founded and used to meet his sociopolitical and military ends, presenting profiles of individual Hitler Youth members as well as young people who opposed the Nazis.

Bonnie and Clyde: The Making of a Legend, Blumenthal
Traces Bonnie Parker and Clyde Barrow's wild path from dirt-poor Dallas teens to their astonishingly violent end and the complicated legacy that survives them both.

Twelve Days in May: Freedom Ride 1961, Brinmer
On May 4, 1961, a group of thirteen black and white civil rights activists launched the Freedom Ride, aiming to challenge the practice of segregation on buses and at bus terminal facilities in the South. The thirteen Freedom Riders intended to test the laws and draw attention to the lack of enforcement with their peaceful protest. As the Riders traveled deeper into the South, they encountered increasing violence and opposition.

Steve Jobs: The Man Who Thought Different, Blumenthal
Traces the inspiring life and career of the late founder of Apple, covering topics ranging from his struggles as an adopted child and a college dropout to his Buddhist faith and friendship with Steve Wozniak.

Faces from the Past: Forgotten People of North America, Deem
This book describes the discovery of bodies in North America from fifteen to twenty thousand years ago, and discusses the evidence their remains reveal about themselves and the civilizations in which they lived.

Abraham Lincoln and Frederick Douglass: The Story Behind an American Friendship, Freedman
The lives of Frederick Douglass and Abraham Lincoln, their friendship and its affect on Emancipation and the Civil War.
Earth Heroes: Champions of Wild Animals, Mahnor
Brief look into the lives of notable environmentalists and their influence on the world, including Henry David Thoreau, John Muir, Theodore Roosevelt, and Aldo Leopold.

Uprooted: The Japanese American Experience During World War II, Marrin
On the 75th anniversary of the bombing of Pearl Harbor comes a harrowing and enlightening look at the internment of Japanese Americans during World War II- from National Book Award finalist Albert Marrin

The Many Faces of George Washington: Remaking a Presidential Icon, McClafferty
Describes the project undertaken by historians at Mount Vernon in 2005 to create accurate images of George Washington as he looked as a surveyor at 19 in the wilderness, a general of the Continental Army at 45, and the 1st president at 57.

The Greatest: Muhammad Ali, Myers
Newbery Honor author Ali’s life from childhood to present day focuses on his boxing career and controversies surrounding him. His fighting earned him international fame, and his refusal to accept the stereotypical role in the 1960’s brought him notoriety.

The Book of Blood: From Legends and Leeches to Vampires and Veins, Newquist
A thrilling and lively tour of the world of blood, from ancient history to modern science, to dark and often gruesome legends of vampires and plague, this book informs readers about the most important tissue in the body.

Bomb: The Race to Build and Steal the World’s Most Dangerous Weapon, Sheinkin
Examines the history of the atomic bomb, - the discovery of the behavior of uranium when placed next to radioactive material, the race to build a bomb, and the impact of the weapon on societies around the world.

Undefeated: Jim Thorpe and the Carlisle Indian School Football Team, Sheinkin
An unflinching look at the U.S. government’s violent persecution of Native Americans and the school that was designed to erase Indian cultures. A group of young men came together at that school, faced overwhelming obstacles both on and off the field, and refused to accept defeat. Called "the team that invented football," they took on the best opponents of their day, defeating much more privileged schools such as Harvard and the Army in a series of breathtakingly close calls, genius plays, and bone-crushing hard work.

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Mystery **********************************************************************************************

Heist Society, Carter
Heist Society series (available as ebook on Follett Discover)
A group of teenagers uses its combined talents to re-steal several priceless paintings and save fifteen year old Kat Bishop’s father, himself an international art thief, from a vengeful collector.

Murder on the Orient Express, Christie
Famous detective Hercule Poirot decides to take the Orient Express train at a time that it makes its route practically empty. The next morning he discovers that an American has been murdered. The murderer, no doubt, is one of the occupants among which are a proud Russian princess and an English governess. Just after midnight, a snowstorm stopped the Orient Express on its march. The luxurious train was surprisingly full for the time of year. But at the end of the night there was one passenger less. With the tension increasing, it is Hercule Poirot must find not one, but two solutions to the case.

Payback Time, Deuker
A mystery-thriller where high school football meets the criminal underworld. High school journalist Mitch is on the verge of uncovering a mystery and nailing his first real story. If only he can get the cornerback Angel to talk, or the coach.

The Falconer’s Knot, Hoffman
This suspenseful mystery, set in 14th century Italy, involves friars, murder, noblemen, and the daughter of a merchant.

The Name of the Star, Johnson
The Shades of London series
Rory, an American, arrives in London as a series of murders begin which mimic Jack the Ripper of many years ago. Rory is the only witness and now has become his next target. Edge-of-your-seat thriller with suspense, humor, and romance.

The Agony House, Priest
Seventeen-year-old Denise Farber, her mom, and her stepfather are moving back to New Orleans, into the Argonne house, which is over 100 years old, and really showing its age, but which her mother plans to turn into a bed-and-breakfast--but old houses have histories, and sometimes ghosts, and a mysterious old comic book that Denise finds in the attic may hold the answer to a crime and the terrifying things that keep happening in what she thinks of as the "Agony" house.

The Westing Game, Raskin
The mysterious death of an eccentric millionaire brings together a group of heirs who must uncover the circumstances of his death before they can claim their inheritance.

The City of Ghosts, Schwab
Ever since her near-fatal drowning, Cassidy has been able to pull back the "Veil" that separates the living from the dead and see ghosts, not that she wants to, and she was really looking forward to a ghost-free summer at the beach; however her parents are going to start filming a TV series about the world's most haunted places, starting with Edinburgh with its graveyards, castles, and restless phantoms--and Cass and her personal ghost companion, Jacob, are about to find out that a city of old ghosts can be a very dangerous place indeed.

************************************************ Fantasy ************************************************

City of Beasts, Allende
This Indiana Jones-style page-turner with daring feats, monster-like beings, intrigue, and mystery takes Alexander on an adventure in the Amazon to find the legendary Beast and its home, El Dorado.

Enclave, Aguirre
Following her 15th birthday, Huntress is sent with topsider Fade to determine the fate of a neighboring enclave. After a shocking discovery, the pair is banished by the enclave’s elders and must face the darkness and dangers unlike ever seen.

Shadow and Bone, Bardugo
Surrounded by enemies, the nation of Ravka has been torn in two by the Shadow Fold, a swath of near impenetrable darkness crawling with monsters who feast on human flesh. Now its fate may rest on the shoulders of one lonely refugee.

Ender’s Game, Card.
When aliens twice attack the earth and almost destroy the human race, the government prepares for the next encounter with “art of war” training games. Ender Wiggin is a genius among geniuses; he wins all the games. He is smart enough to know that time is running out. But is he smart enough to save the planet?

Seraphina, Hartman
Seraphina is half dragon and half human and, if people knew, she would be considered an abomination. She lives life in the shadows until her musical talent, a mysterious death, and her attraction to a handsome prince bring her life to a crisis.

The Obsidian Blade, Hautman
National Book Award author
Klaata Diskos series
(ebook on Follett Discover)
Tucker’s father vanishes and returns an hour later, looking older with a girl named Lahli. His mother slides into madness, and both parents disappear. Eventually Tucker is on a time-twisting journey from a small town to a futuristic hospital.

**Insignia**, Kincaid
Insignia trilogy
Tom, a fourteen-year-old genius at virtual reality games, is recruited by the United States military to begin training at the Pentagon Spire as a combatant in World War III, controlling the mechanized drones that do the actual fighting off-planet.

**Son**, Lowry
Newbery author
The Giver series
When Claire washed up on shore, no one knew she came from a society where emotions and colors didn’t exist. She had a son but doesn’t know where he is. Now she won’t stop until she finds her child, even if it means unimaginable sacrifice.

**Legend**, Lu
In a dark future, when North America has split into two warring nations, fifteen-year-old Day, a famous criminal, and prodigy June, the brilliant soldier hired to capture him, discover that they have a common enemy.

**Cinder**, Meyer
Cinder, a mechanic and a cyborg, is blamed for her stepsister’s illness while a deadly plague decimates the population. When Cinder’s life gets intertwined with Prince Kai’s, she finds herself at the center of an intergalactic struggle.

**A Confusion of Princes**, Nix
Khemri learns that princes need to be hard to kill as they are always in danger. The greatest threat is other princes. Princes want to become Emperor and the best way is to kill, dishonor, or sideline potential competitor, as rules can be ignored.

**Miss Peregrine’s Home for Peculiar Children**, Riggs
Jacob, 16, having traveled to a remote island after a family tragedy, discovers an abandoned orphanage, and after some investigating, learns the kids who lived there may have been dangerous and quarantined yet may also still be alive.

**York: The Shadow Cipher**, Ruby
It was 1798 when the Morningstarr twins arrived in New York with a vision for a magnificent city: towering skyscrapers, dazzling machines, and winding train lines, all running on technology no one had ever seen before. Fifty-seven years later, the enigmatic architects disappeared, leaving behind for the people of New York the Old York Cipher—a puzzle laid into the shining city they constructed, at the end of which was promised a treasure beyond all imagining. If Tess, Theo, and Jaime want to save their home, they have to prove that the Old York Cipher is real, which means they have to solve it.

**The Scorpio Races**, Maggie Stiefvator
Some race for fame. Some race for fortune. Then there is the story of Puck Connolly who, for the sake of her family, willingly risks her life as she races the legendary water horses in the bloody and brutal Scorpio Races.

**The Hobbit**, Tolkien
(available as ebook on Follett Discover)
This great classic involves a quest, battles, dragons, and wizards.

******************************************************Historical Fiction******************************************************

**Chains**, Anderson
O’Dell Award
After being sold to a cruel couple in New York, a slave named Isabel spies for the rebels during the Revolutionary War.

**Tropical Secrets: Holocaust Refugees in Cuba**, Engle
Escaping from Nazi Germany to Cuba in 1939, a young Jewish refugee dreams of finding his parents again. He befriends a local girl with painful secrets of her own, and discovers that the Nazi darkness is never far away.
The Lions of Little Rock, Levine
Marlee is in middle school in Little Rock, 1958 and becomes friends with Liz. When Liz leaves school without a good-bye, Marlee wants her friend back. To continue their friendship they take on, segregation and the danger their friendship causes both families.

Resistance, Nielsen
In 1942 sixteen-year-old Chaya Lindner is a Jewish girl living in Nazi-occupied Poland, a courier who smuggles food and documents to the isolated Jewish ghettos in southern Poland, depending on her forged papers and "Aryan" features--but when a mission goes wrong and many of her colleagues are arrested she finds herself on a journey to Warsaw, where an uprising is in the works.

The Berlin Boxing Club, Sharenow
When Max, a German boxer gives Karl, a Jewish boy boxing lessons, Karl finds both his boxing and his art flourishing. When Nazi violence against Jews rises, can Karl balance his boxing with his obligation to keep his family safe?

Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry, Taylor
This is a story of a spirited African American family living in the South during the Great Depression. They face hard times, prejudice, and economic pitfalls, but their family ties help them persevere.

Countdown, Wiles
It's 1962, and President Kennedy goes on television to say Russia is sending nuclear missiles to Cuba. Franny doesn't know how to deal with what's going on in the world or with her family and friends. But somehow she's got to make it.

Kent State, Wiles
From two-time National Book Award finalist Deborah Wiles, a masterpiece exploration of one of the darkest moments in our history, when American troops killed four American students protesting the Vietnam War.

The Book Thief, Zusak
During WWI, Liesel survives by stealing when she finds books. Her father teaches her to read, and she shares books with her neighbors during bombing raids and the Jewish man hidden in her basement before he is marched to Dacha.