Cannon Middle School Summer Work: 2019-2020

We are recommending reading, writing, and keyboarding practice this summer. See below for grade-level details.

**All Grades: Writing Component**

All students in the Middle School are asked to create a piece of work (poem, song, essay, poster, sculpture, video…the student’s choice) that represents who they are. It should express each student’s unique attributes and interests while showcasing his/her ability to convey information to a specific audience: his/her advisory. Each piece will be presented (3 to 5 minutes in length) to the advisor and the student’s advisory group as way for the students to learn about one another.

**5th Grade: Reading Component**

In fifth grade, students will delve into a variety of topics, from learning about the world around them (including the keys to “survival” in middle school); to reading, creating, and sharing mythology; to developing a better understanding of their reading preferences and writing style. The summer reads will help us launch their journey. The required readings are:

1. *Where the Mountain Meets the Moon* by Grace Lin
2. Book of choice (one that you can’t wait to tell others about!)

**6th Grade: Reading Component**

In sixth grade, students will be reading *Home of the Brave* by Katherine Applegate to start off the year and attending the Special Olympics in the spring. Linking these activities together is a common theme: the need to identify the things that draw us together while understanding the differences that make us unique and strong. Students will have a choice of books from the list below that address that theme. Note: as students select their books, we encourage them to consider that individuals are at vastly different reading/interest/maturity levels. They should choose a book that is appropriate for their reading taste, style, and speed. Additionally, if a parent feels that a book on the list is not a good fit for his/her child, he/she should feel free to exercise parental veto power.

The required reading is two books of choice from the list below:

- *Wishtree* by Katherine Applegate
- *Crow* by Barbara Wright
- *A Night Divided* by Jennifer A. Nielsen
- *Bluefish* by Pat Schmatz
- *A Crack in the Sea* by H.M. Bouman
- *Inside Out & Back Again* by Thanhha Lai
- *The Year of the Dog* by Grace Lin
- *90 Miles to Havana* by Enrique Flores-Galbis
- *The Last Cherry Blossom* by Kathleen Burkinshaw
- *Code Talker* by Joseph Bruchac
- *Outside In* by Jennifer Bradbury
- *Shooting Kabul* by N.H. Senzai
- *Front Desk* by Kelly Yang
- *The Wednesday Wars* by Gary Schmidt
- *The War that Saved my Life* by Kimberly Brubaker
- *Bradley*

**7th Grade: Reading Component**

In seventh grade, students will be stretching themselves in writing and exploring new genres of literature. The summer read is designed to help students develop a sense of community while propelling students into deeper thinking about their reading. The required readings are:

1. *Seedfolks* by Paul Fleischman
2. *The House of the Scorpion* by Nancy Farmer
8th Grade: Reading Component

In eighth grade, students will be given choice to explore a variety of genres and find what grows them as a student. They will start the year by talking, discussing, and creating based on their summer reads. Students will have a choice of books from the list below that are either interesting to them or ask them to step outside of their reading comfort zone. Note: as students select their books, we encourage them to consider that students are at vastly different reading/interest/maturity levels. Students should choose a book that is appropriate for their reading taste, style, and speed. Additionally, if a parent feels that a book on the list is not a good fit for his/her child, he/she should feel free to exercise parental veto power.

The required reading is two books from this list that meet the following criteria: (1) a book that sounds interesting to you, and (2) a book in a genre that you don’t normally gravitate to.

**Classic:**
- *Little Woman* by Louisa May Alcott
- *Fahrenheit 451* by Ray Bradbury
- *And There Were None* and *Murder on the Orient Express* by Agatha Christie
- *A Christmas Carol* by Charles Dickens
- *The Count of Monte Cristo* and *The Three Musketeers* by Alexandre Dumas
- *Rebecca* by Daphne DuMaurier
- *1984* by George Orwell
- *A Christmas Carol* by Betty Smith
- *Treasure Island* by Robert Louis Stevenson
- *The Prince and the Pauper* and *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* by Mark Twain
- *20,000 Leagues Under the Sea* by Jules Verne

**Fantasy:**
- *Children of Blood and Bone* by Adeyemi, Tomi
- *La Belle Sauvage* series by Philip Pullman
- *Magnus Chase* trilogy and *Sword of Summer* series by Rick Riordan
- *The Girl Who Drank the Moon* by Kelly Barnhill
- *Six of Crows* by Leigh Bardugo
- *Airman* by Eoin Colfer
- *The Graveyard Book* and *Norse Mythology* by Neil Gaiman
- *The Lie Tree* by Frances Hardinge
- *Seraphina* by Rachel Hartman
- *The Hero and the Crown* by Robin McKinley
- *Splendors and Gloom* by Laura Schmitz
- *The Amulet of Samarkand* series by Jonathan Stroud
- *The Lord of the Rings* series by J.R.R. Tolkien
- *The Thief* series by Megan Turner
- *Uglies* by Scott Westerfeld

**Graphic Novel:**
- *Nimona* by Noelle Stevenson
- *This One Summer* by Mariko Tamaki and Jillian Tamaki

**Historical Fiction:**
- *Journey of Little Charlie* and *Elijah of Buxton* by Christopher Paul Curtis
- *The Parker Inheritance* by Varian Johnson
- *Chains* by Laurie Halse Anderson
- *Samurai Shortstop* by Alan Gratz
- *A Proud Taste for Scarlet and Miniver* by E.L. Konigsburg
- *The Chosen* by Chaim Potak
- *The Hired Girl* by Laura Schmitz
- *Milkweed* by Jerry Spinelli
- *Countdown* by Deborah Wiles

**Magical Realism/Verse Novel:**
- *Long Way Down* and *Ghost* series by Jason Reynolds

**Realistic Fiction:**
- *You Bring the Distance Near* by Mitali Perkins
- *Hope Was Here* by Joan Bauer
- *After the First Death* and *The Chocolate War* by Robert Cormier
- *Fat Kid Rules the World* by K.L. Going
- *We Were Liars* by E. Lockhart
- *Touching Spirit Bear* by Benjamin Mikaelsen
- *Fallen Angels* and *Monster* by Walter Dean Myers
- *A Step from Heaven* by An Na
- *Jacob Have I Loved* by Katherine Paterson
- *All American Boys* by Jason Reynolds and Brendan Kiely
- *Goodbye Stranger* by Rebecca Stead
Science Fiction:
The Hitchhiker’s Guide to the Galaxy by Douglas Adams
Scythe and Thunderhead by Neal Shusterman
Foundation by Isaac Asimov
Ender’s Game and Ender’s Shadow by Orson Scott Card
The Hunger Games series by Suzanne Collins
Incarceron by Catherine Fisher
The Story of Owen: Dragon Slayer of Trondheim by E.K. Johnston
Legend series and The Young Elites series by Marie Lu
Life As We Knew It by Susan Pfeffer
Steelheart series by Brandon Sanderson

BOB list:
Serafina and the Black Cloak series by Robert Beatty
Insignificant Events in the Life of a Cactus by Dusti Bowling
Gym Candy by Carl Deuker
The Ruins of Gorlan by John Flanagan
The Boys Who Challenged Hitler by Phillip Hoose
House Arrest by K.A. Holt
Cracker! The Best Dog in Vietnam by Cynthia Kadohata
To Kill a Mockingbird by Harper Lee
Greenglass House by Kate Milford
A Monster Calls by Patrick Ness
The First Rule of Punk by Celia C. Perez
Ghost Boys by Jewell Parker Rhodes
Harry Potter series, by J.K. Rowling

BOB list continued:
Bomb by Steve Sheinkin
I’ll Be There Holly Goldberg Sloan
The Bitter Side of Sweet by Tara Sullivan
I Am Malala by Malala Yousafzai

Nonfiction, Biography, Memoir:
Hitler Youth and The Called Themselves the K.K.K.: The Birth of an American Terrorist Group by Susan Campbell Bartoletti
Enchanted Air: Two Cultures, Two Wings by Margarita Engle
The Family Romanov: Murder, Rebellion, & the Fall of Imperial Russia by Candace Fleming
Vincent and Theo by Deborah Heilig
March: Book Three by John Lewis with Andrew Aydin & Nate Powell
No Pretty Pictures by Anita Lobel
Falling Leaves by Adeline Yen Mah
We are the Ship by Kadir Nelson
This Land was Made for You and Me: The Life and Songs of Woody Guthrie by Elizabeth Partridge
Persepolis by Marjane Satrapi
Bomb, Most Dangerous, and The Port Chicago 50: Disaster, Mutiny, and The Fight for Civil Rights by Steve Sheinkin
Maus I & II by Art Spiegelman
Surviving Hitler: A Boy in the Nazi Death Camp by Andrea Warren
The Martian Chronicles by Ray Bradbury

Poetry:
The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle
Carver: A Life in Poems by Marilyn Nelson
Baseball in April by Gary Soto

All Grades (Recommended): Keyboarding Practice
In the coming school year, we will enhance our support of students with a program that provides structured keyboarding practice time on Fridays during study hall for our 5th and 6th grade students as well as for 7th and 8th grade students whose scores lie below the benchmark speed. The goal is to get every student to grade level proficiency. If you are interested in giving your child a jump-start this summer, the following are some great programs available for online practice: www.typing.com; www.speedtypingonline.com; www.typingclub.com. Please contact Catherine Jones, our Dean of Studies, with questions: catherinejones@cannonschool.org.