

Meriden Public Schools

Middle School

“Summer 2013

Reading Achiever Program”

Entering 8th Grade

Student:

Teacher:

School:

Accelerated Reader Range: _____

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www.meridenk12.org

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June 2013

Dear Parents/Guardians,

With the end of the school year approaching, we know your child will be looking forward to the summer break. In an effort to continue student learning, we are asking that you support and encourage your child to participate in our Summer Reading Achiever Program. This program aims to help students continue reading and writing over the summer time.

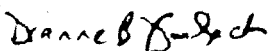
The guidelines for the program are simple. Your child will read as many books as possible of his/her choice. Then, for each book, record the title, book level and number of pages on the attached reading log. In addition, your child should complete and return the attached response sheet (back side of "log") for **two** of the books. If your child returns the response sheet, then he/she will be able to take the Accelerated Reader Quiz for those two books. This will support student efforts in meeting their Term 1 Accelerated Reader Goal. Also, students who complete the Summer Reading Achiever expectations will be rewarded in the fall.

The Meriden Public Library and the 2013 Governor's Reading Challenge have joined together to create an online tool called "Evanced" summer reading system. Students utilizing this online tool will be able to keep track of the book titles they read this summer, create a book review, and write book reports that they can print. All of these "Evanced" summer reading system activities will help support students when they are completing the MPS Summer Reading Achiever Program packet. Instructions on how to access "Evanced" are attached in the Meriden Public Library materials section. The students can also go to the website meridenlibrary.org and click on the summer reading icon "Dig into Reading".

To help your child make appropriate middle level book choices, your child should select Accelerated Reader books in his/her range. This range is located on the front cover of this packet. Accelerated Reader book levels can be found at <http://www.arbookfind.com/default.aspx>.

We ask that you remind your child that reading is important and fun, too! Please join us in this important effort to assist your child in becoming a Summer Reading Achiever.

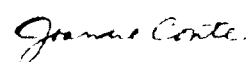
Sincerely,



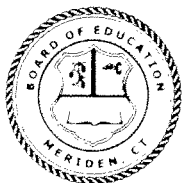
Dianne Vumbach, Principal
Lincoln Middle School









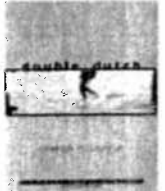
Ray Southland, Principal
Washington Middle School

















Joanne Conte, Supervisor
Language Arts (6 - 12)










Meriden Public Schools
Middle Level Summer Reading Book Recommendations

Book	Title/Author	Book Description
	<p style="text-align: center;">The Hunger Games</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Collins, Suzanne</p> <p>AR Level: 5.3 Points: 15</p>	<p>In reality TV run amok, an annual, government-run competition pits two dozen teens against one another in a fight to the death, and 16-year-old Katniss must hold her own against stronger and more ruthless players. A compelling and often-poignant portrait of young people forced to deal with unspeakable evil.</p> <p><i>* First book in a series</i></p>
	<p style="text-align: center;">A Leap of Faith</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Bradley, Kimberly Brubaker</p> <p>AR Level: 4.2 Points: 6</p>	<p>Abigail is starting a new middle school, a Catholic school, because she's been expelled from her old one. She's sure that this place will be just the same as the last, and no one will listen to her here either. Even her parents don't seem able to really hear the truth about what happened at the previous school. But now she finds herself in a community of people who <i>do</i> listen, who want to be her friends, and who help her discover a talent for theater that she never knew she had. Converting to Catholicism began merely as a way to annoy her parents, but quickly it becomes more. Could she be developing real faith?</p>
	<p style="text-align: center;">The Sisterhood of the Traveling Pants</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Brashares, Ann</p> <p>AR Level: 4.5 Points: 9</p>	<p>The guys-to-die-for romances, sibling rivalry, and heartbreaking tragedy are themes enabling the book's popularity to gain legs as teen girls share the book and recommend it to others. (RW) Four gossipy adolescents share a used pair of jeans. It's like eavesdropping on their daily lives, romance, parents, and jobs.</p>
	<p style="text-align: center;">Among the Hidden</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Haddix, <u>Margaret Peterson</u></p> <p>AR Level: 4.8 Points: 5</p>	<p>In the future, families are restricted to two children due to limited resources. But Luke is born a third child, and he finds it very lonely hiding inside his own home. He soon discovers another third child, and the book takes off from there.</p>
	<p style="text-align: center;">Hoot</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Hiaason, Carl</p> <p>AR Level: 5.2 Points: 9</p>	<p>Middle school students invent clever pranks to save the owls nesting site from new construction.</p>
	<p style="text-align: center;">Crossing the Wire</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Hobbs, Will</p> <p>AR Level: 4.3 Points: 8</p>	<p>Fifteen-year-old Victor Flores journeys north in a desperate attempt to cross the Arizona border and find work in the United States to support his family in central Mexico.</p>
	<p style="text-align: center;">Double Dutch</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Draper, Sharon-</p> <p>AR Level: 4.9 Points: 7</p>	<p>Three eighth-grade friends, preparing for the International Double Dutch Championship jump rope competition cope with Randy's missing father, Delia's inability to read, and Yo Yo's encounter with the class bullies. Great for reluctant readers.</p>

	<p>The Last Shot</p> <p>Feinstein, John</p> <p>AR Level: 4.8 Points: 9</p>	<p>After winning a basketball reporting contest, eighth graders Stevie and Susan Carol are sent to cover the Final Four tournament, where they discover that a talented player is being blackmailed into throwing the final game.</p>
	<p>The First Part Last</p> <p>Johnson, Angela</p> <p>AR Level: 4.3 Points: 3</p>	<p>Bobby is your classic urban teenaged boy -- impulsive, eager, restless. On his sixteenth birthday he gets some news from his girlfriend, Nia, that changes his life forever. She's pregnant. Bobby's going to be a father. Suddenly things like school and house parties and hanging with friends no longer seem important as they're replaced by visits to Nia's obstetrician and a social worker who says that the only way for Nia and Bobby to lead a normal life is to put their baby up for adoption.</p>
	<p>Al Capone Does My Shirts?</p> <p>Choldenko, Gennifer</p> <p>AR Level: 3.7 Points: 7</p>	<p>A twelve-year-old boy named Moose moves to Alcatraz Island in 1935 when guards' families were housed there, and has to contend with his extraordinary new environment in addition to life with his autistic sister.</p>
	<p>Artemis Fowl</p> <p>Colfer, Eoin</p> <p>AR Level: 5.0 Points: 9</p>	<p>Artemis Fowl, a charming but villainous twelve-year-old, takes on the dangerous world of the Fairy People. Artemis Fowl opens up a riveting world of fantasy and mystery where anything, literally, is possible.</p> <p><i>* Book in a series</i></p>
	<p>The Face on the Milk Carton</p> <p>Cooney, Caroline B.</p> <p>AR Level: 4.8 Points: 6</p>	<p>"When Janie sees her own face on the milk carton under the words "Missing Child," she begins to wonder about her so-called parents."</p>
	<p>Schooled</p> <p>Korman, Gordon</p> <p>AR Level: 4.9 Points: 6</p>	<p>Capricorn (Cap for short) had lived every day of his life on Garland Farm growing fruits and vegetables. He was homeschooled by Rain, the only person he knew in the world. Life was simple for Cap. But when Rain falls out of a tree while picking plums and is hospital-ridden, he has to attend the local middle school and live with his new guidance counselor and her irritable daughter. Cap doesn't exactly fit in at Claverage Middle School (dubbed C Average by the kids). He has long, ungroomed hair, wears hemp clothes, and practices Tai Chi out on the lawn. While Cap knew a lot about Zen Buddhism, no amount formal education could ready him for the trials and tribulations of public middle school.</p>
	<p>Loser</p> <p>Jerry Spinelli</p> <p>AR Level: 4.3 Points: 5</p>	<p>Just like other kids, Zinkoff rides his bike, hopes for snow days, and wants to be like his dad when he grows up. But Zinkoff also raises his hand with all the wrong answers, trips over his own feet, and falls down with laughter over a word like "Jabip".</p>

	<p>Blood Fever</p> <p>Higson, Charles; Fleming, Ian</p> <p>AR Level: 5.6 Points: 14</p>	<p>During a summer holiday in Italy, the teen-age James Bond tangles with an underground empire of criminals as he attempts the rescue of a kidnapped young girl.</p>
	<p>Carlos is Gonna Get It</p> <p>Emerson, Kevin</p> <p>AR Level: 5.2 Points: 8</p>	<p>Recounts the events that occur at the end of seventh grade, when a group of friends plan to trick Carlos, an annoying "problem" student who says he is visited by aliens, while they are on a field trip in the mountains of New Hampshire</p>
	<p>Tangerine</p> <p>Bloor, Edward</p> <p>AR Level: 4.3 Points: 13</p>	<p>Though legally blind, Paul Fisher can see what others cannot. He can see that his parents' constant praise of his brother, Erik, the football star, is to cover up something that is terribly wrong. But no one listens to Paul--until his family moves to Tangerine. In this Florida town, weird is normal: Lightning strikes at the same time every day, a sinkhole swallows a local school, and Paul the geek finds himself adopted into the toughest group around: the soccer team at his middle school.</p>
	<p>The Truth about Truman School</p> <p>Butler, Dori Hillestad.</p> <p>AR Level: 4.4 Points: 6</p>	<p>Tired of being told what to write by the school newspaper's advisor, Zibby and her friend Amr start an underground newspaper online where everyone is free to post anything, but things spiral out of control when a cyberbully starts using the site to harass one popular girl.</p>
	<p>Ender's Game</p> <p>Card, Orson Scott</p> <p>AR Level: 5.0 Points: 9</p>	<p>In order to develop a secure defense against a hostile alien race's next attack, government agencies breed child geniuses and train them as soldiers. A brilliant young boy, Andrew "Ender" Wiggin lives with his kind but distant parents, his sadistic brother Peter, and the person he loves more than anyone else, his sister Valentine. Peter and Valentine were candidates for the soldier-training program but didn't make the cut. Young Ender is the Wiggin drafted to the orbiting Battle School for rigorous military training.</p>
	<p>If a Tree Falls at Lunch Period</p> <p>Choldenko, Gennifer</p> <p>AR Level: 5.5 Points: 16</p>	<p>Kirsten and Walk, seventh-graders at an elite private school, alternate telling how race, wealth, weight, and other issues shape their relationships as they and other misfits stand up to a mean but influential classmate, even as they are uncovering a long-kept secret about themselves.</p>
	<p>Red Kayak</p> <p>Cummings, Priscilla</p> <p>AR Level: 4.9 Points: 8</p>	<p>Living near the water on Maryland's Eastern Shore, thirteen-year-old Brady and his best friends J.T. and Digger become entangled in a tragedy which tests their friendship and their ideas about right and wrong.</p>

	<p style="text-align: center;">Runner</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Deuker, Carl</p> <p>AR Level: 4.3 Points: 6</p>	<p>When a new job falls his way, Chance jumps at the opportunity, becoming a runner who picks up strange packages on a daily route and delivers them to a shady man at the marina. Chase knows how much he will earn, what he doesn't know is how much he will pay. Suspenseful, fast-paced, and timely, this novel avoids easy answers as it examines issues of terrorism and patriotism, fear and courage, and lives of privilege and poverty.</p>
	<p style="text-align: center;">Exploits of a Reluctant (But Extremely Good looking) Hero</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Fergus, Maureen</p> <p>AR Level: 7.1 Points: 10</p>	<p>Meet a teenage hero who likes nothing better than to sit back with a bucket of fried chicken and a girlie magazine, waiting for his family plumbing fortune to come to him. But when our hero gets into some serious trouble, he's forced to volunteer at a local soup kitchen where he finds himself at the center of a struggle between the rich and the poor, the selfish and the selfless. It is a worthy cause he could care less about until the day he stumbles across a shocking piece of information. What happens next surprises everybody, including our very reluctant hero... Exploits of a Reluctant (But Extremely Good looking) Hero is a novel of adventure, intrigue, Ukrainian dance lessons, disruptive horseplay, inappropriate ogling and some truly heroic consumption of junk food. Adrian Mole meets South Parkin this often outrageous and always hilarious trip into the inner world of a boy teetering on the brink of manhood.</p>
	<p style="text-align: center;">Phineas Gage a Gruesome but True Story about Brain Science</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Fleischman, John</p> <p>AR Level: 7.4 Points: 2</p>	<p>Lots of gory detail plus great nonfiction information about the brain makes this a knockout for boys (and girls like it, too). The mere thought of living with an iron rod embedded in one's brain will fascinate and completely engage the middle school boy's penchant for gross and gory.</p>
	<p style="text-align: center;">Code Orange</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Cooney, Caroline B</p> <p>AR Level: 6.2 Points: 8</p>	<p>While conducting research for a school paper on smallpox, Mitty finds an envelope containing 100-year-old smallpox scabs and fears that he has infected himself and all of New York City.</p>
	<p style="text-align: center;">Pictures of Hollis Woods</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Giff, Patricia Reilly</p> <p>AR Level: 4.4 Points: 5</p>	<p>A troublesome twelve-year-old orphan, staying with an elderly artist who needs her, remembers the only other time she was happy in a foster home, with a family that truly seemed to care about her.</p>
	<p style="text-align: center;">How Ya Like me Now</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Halpin, Brendan</p> <p>AR Level: 5.8 Points: 8</p>	<p>After his father dies and his mother goes into rehab, Eddie moves from the suburbs into his cousin's Boston loft, where he gradually adjusts to being one of the few white kids in a progressive private school, and learns how to feel like a normal teenager</p>
	<p style="text-align: center;">Heat</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Lupica, Mike</p> <p>AR Level: 4.9 Points: 8</p>	<p>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 twelve years old and he has no parents to offer them proof.</p>

2014 NUTMEG BOOK AWARD

TEEN NOMINEES



City of Orphans by *Avi*
New York City, 1893. When Maks' sister, Emma, is falsely accused of stealing and imprisoned, Maks and his friend Willa must prove her innocence. Maks must balance his amateur detective work with his newspaper business, not to mention the Plug Ugly gang and their attempts to stop Lower East Side Newsies from delivering their papers.



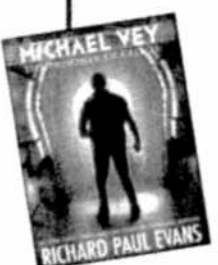
Divergent by *Veronica Roth*
Beatrice "Tris" lives in a society where citizens belong to factions that share certain aptitudes. Tris has not one, but three aptitudes, selflessness, courage, and truth-seeking. To survive, Beatrice must hide her Divergence and choose just one faction, one aptitude. When she selects Dauntless, for courage, she little imagines the stunts, battles, and friendships she will encounter.



I'll Be There by *Holly Goldberg Sloan*
Sam and Riddle have moved around their entire lives with their unstable father. Sam wishes he could leave, but he could never abandon his quirky little brother Riddle. Then one day Sam meets Emily, a true believer in fate. Emily believes that Sam and Riddle are part of her destiny. As their paths intersect, their lives change forever.



The Lions of Little Rock by *Kristin Levine*
1958, Arkansas. Painfully shy, Marlee feels grateful to her new friend Liz for making middle school more bearable. But Liz has a secret. She is a light skinned black 'passing' for white. This causes a massive uproar in the community. Shy Marlee finds the courage to help integrate her school. A powerful story of friendship and determination.



Michael Vey: The Prisoner of Cell 25 by *Richard Paul Evans*
Michael Vey has a secret. He is electric and can even restart car batteries. He thought he was unique until he meets Taylor, and they make a startling discovery. When Michael's mom disappears, they face an unknown enemy and even more electric.



Mindblind by *Jennifer Roy*
14 year-old Nathaniel is a profoundly gifted Asperger's student. He thinks of himself as "mindblind;" he cannot always guess what other people are thinking. After college, he plans to become an "official genius." His story presents a unique perspective, illuminating the mind of a gifted person while showing the humor of Nathaniel's quirky existence.



Now Is the Time for Running by *Michael Williams*
Deo and his friends live for soccer. Every day they meet in the fields near their village in Zimbabwe and play, cheered on by Deo's brother, Innocent. One day, the soldiers arrive, and everything changes in an instant. Deo and Innocent run for their lives with nothing but the clothes on their backs and a soccer ball.



Okay for Now by *Gary D. Schmidt*
Doug Swietek sees only the negatives of his move to a new town. Doug's father and brothers often take their anger out on Doug. Despite Doug's family troubles, he finds his own place in town and discovers his strengths and talents with the help of some unlikely friends.



Page by Paige by *Laura Lee Gulledge*
Paige has recently moved to New York City from Virginia with her writer parents. In her sketchbook, Paige journals her inner feelings and struggles. Although she is a true artist, she is afraid to share her drawings with her new friends. Gulledge presents beautiful illustrations and visual metaphors.



The Scorpio Races by *Maggie Stiefvater*
The Scorpio Races take place every November on the island of Thisby, with wild horses that emerge from the sea and young men who risk their lives to ride them. This year, 17-year-old Puck Connolly plans to break tradition as the first girl to enter the race. This book is a wild mix of horror, action, fantasy, and romance.



2014 NUTMEG BOOK AWARD

INTERMEDIATE NOMINEES



The Candymakers

by Wendy Mass

An obnoxious rich kid, a spy, a child who witnessed a tragic event, and the son of a candy factory owner come together to compete in a national candy competition for best new candy. Mysteries abound. Candy lovers will find this book a sweet read!



Closed for the Season

by Mary Downing Hahn

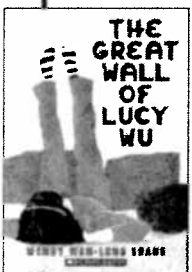
Arthur and Logan tackle the derelict amusement park, *The Magic Forest*, hoping to solve a murder. The victim was the previous owner of Logan's new home! The park is supposedly closed for the season, so who is in there with them, and are they in danger?



The Fingertips of Duncan Dorfman

by Meg Wolitzer

To cheat or not to cheat? Duncan Dorfman has a unique power of reading letters without looking, and when Duncan competes at a national Scrabble tournament, he must choose what is right. Duncan and his new friends April and Nate team up and change the competition in unforeseen ways.



The Great Wall of Lucy Wu

by Wendy Wan Long-Shang

11-year-old Chinese-American and basketball player Lucy Wu plans for a great sixth grade year, finally getting her own room and her own life. Things don't turn out as planned when her great-aunt Yi-Po arrives from China to share her space. Will delicious dumplings be enough to fix a tough situation?



Inside Out and Back Again

by Thanhha Lai

Vietnam, 1975. Even though Ha's father has been missing for almost a year, Ha and her family decide to leave Vietnam and start their lives over in the United States. Told in verse, Ha's story describes her new life with humor and hope.



Mike Stellar: Nerves of Steel

by K.A. Holt

Mike Stellar does NOT want to be on an expedition to colonize Mars with his parents, his nightmare of a teacher, and a cast of suspicious characters. Mike needs nerves of steel and the help of a girl named Larc to clear his parents' name and save the mission.



Out of My Mind

by Sharon M. Draper

Melody is probably the smartest student in her school, but no one knows it because cerebral palsy has her trapped inside her body. Can technology open her world to everyone else? Melody narrates her story of immense struggle and even greater accomplishments.



Saving Ampit

by Natalie Hyde

Will the beleaguered Terriers baseball team ever win a game? How can they win without a real coach? Baseball fans will love the fast-paced action as the Terriers use teamwork and imagination to help their town's baseball team survive.



Wild Girl

by Patricia Reilly Giff

Lidie leaves Mexico to join her father and brother in New York where they train racehorses. She never thought her new life would be so difficult and unfamiliar. Can a special horse help her feet at home?



Wildfire Run

by Dee Garretson

The President's son Luke and his friends Theo and Callie enjoy their vacation at Camp David, the safest place in the US. When a raging wildfire threatens to turn Camp David into a death trap, they race to override security systems and save the Secret Service agents who are supposed to keep them safe.



First Name:

Last Name:

2013 Summer Reading Achiever Log

Number	Title	Book Level	Number of Pages
1			
2			
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Meriden Public Library:

Materials and
Summer Activities



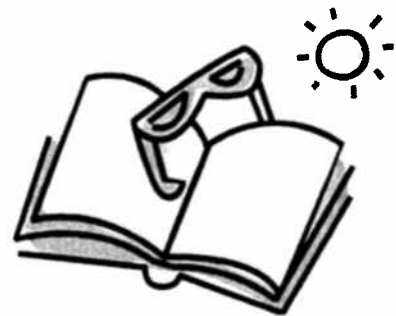
Meriden Public Library
105 Miller Street
Meriden, CT 06450
203 630-6347

We are encouraging our patrons to utilize our "Evanced" summer reading program. This program is an online tool to help students keep track of book titles they read this summer. Please encourage your children to sign up using their first and last name as the user name and the last six digits of their library card, a pet name *etc.* (something that they will be able to remember as their password). Please visit the website listed below.

<http://ct.evanced.info/meridenlibrary/sr/homepage.asp>

Once they log in, they will notice tabs above the top of the frog logo (Dig Into Reading). The first one is "Early Literacy" for preschool through ages 4 and the second one is for "Children" grades one through five. The young adult department will oversee "Beneath the Surface" which includes grades 6-12. Adults will use "Groundbreaking Reads".

Once children reach their goal, they will be awarded a prize. Children can earn a prize each week they participate. Teens and adults can also sign up. The Young Adult and Adult departments will also offer prizes. Last year the top prize was a Kindle !



A Taste of Summer



Monday	June 24	6:30 p.m.	Nature of the Seahorse w/ Mike Glazer Come and see the Nature of the Seahorse with Mike Glazer and his touch tanks.
Friday	June 28	10:30 a.m.	Jester Jim Jester Jim will impress you with his juggling and unicycle.
Monday	July 1	6:30 p.m.	Bwana Iguana Have a wildly exciting time with Ray Ward and his reptile show.
Friday	July 5	10:30 a.m.	Puppet Show Laurie Murphy makes her puppets come to life to entertain and interact with the children.
Monday	July 8	6:30 p.m.	Unicycle and Juggling Ethan Frankel will amaze you with his unicycle & juggling.
Friday	July 12	10:30 a.m.	Animals on the Go Come and see the animals. Learn about ecology and pet ownership.
Monday	July 15	6:30 p.m.	Les Julian Songs that make you laugh and think. Music and fun for the whole family.
Friday	July 19	10:30 a.m.	Fun with Rhythms Come and see Edward Leonard
Monday	July 22	6:30 p.m.	Sciencetellers The Bugs of Blackwood. For children in kindergarten - 6 th grade
Friday	July 26	10:30 a.m.	Bruce John's musical program Music and entertainment.
Monday	July 29	6:30 p.m.	Farmer Minor and his pig Daisy Come and meet Farmer Minor and his pig Daisy.
Friday	August 2	10:30 a.m.	Magic with Steve Wronker Come and let Steve wonder and amaze you with his magic.
Monday	August 5	6:30 p.m.	High Touch High Tech State of Matter - a fun-filled, hands-on educational experience.

Tickets will be available in the Tomie dePaola Children's Library beginning June 10th. All programs are sponsored by the Friends of the Meriden Public Library.



Tomie dePaola Children's Library
Meriden Public Library
105 Miller Street, Meriden, CT 06450
203-630-6347

**Meriden Public Library
105 Miller Street
Meriden, CT 06450
203-630-6347**

**Rocket Club 2013
12:00 pm**



We will be offering 2 sessions for children in grades 4 & up.

Session 1 July 22nd – July 26th

Session 2 July 29th – August 1st

Children will meet from 12-1:30 pm to build, decorate and launch their own rocket. Registration begins the week of July 1.