



Dr. Cheryl McCarthy <i>Superintendent</i> 815/727-6970 Fax: 815/727-1277	Dr. Karla Guseman <i>Assistant Superintendent</i> <i>Educational Services</i> 815/727-6972 Fax: 815/727-1277	Dr. Ilandus Hampton <i>Assistant Superintendent</i> <i>Business Services</i> 815/727-6960 Fax: 815/774-1600	300 Caterpillar Drive Joliet, IL 60436 www.jths.org
---	--	---	---

Dear Parents,

I am very excited to announce the Joliet Township High School summer reading choices for 2018!

We are asking every student to read *at least one* of these seven books over the summer. The goal of the summer reading program is to encourage students to read for pleasure. Each of these engaging and highly relevant reads also represents one of the “7 Words Make a Difference” JTHS character attributes. We hope that the Summer Reading program will also be an opportunity for students to reflect on these character attributes.

The seven Summer Reading book selections for 2018 are:

- |                        |  |
|------------------------|--|
| <b>Perseverance:</b>   | <i>The Cross Over</i> by Kwame Alexander   |
| <b>Responsibility:</b> | <i>Goodbye Days</i> by Jeff Zentner        |
| <b>Respect:</b>        | <i>The Hate U Give</i> by Angie Thomas     |
| <b>Integrity:</b>      | <i>Brave New World</i> by Aldus Huxley     |
| <b>Confidence:</b>     | <i>Armada</i> by Ernest Cline              |
| <b>Compassion:</b>     | <i>Orbiting Jupiter</i> by Gary D. Schimdt |
| <b>Tolerance:</b>      | <i>Spare Parts</i> by Joshua Davis         |

*Armada:* Author Ernest Cline is best known for his book *Ready Player One*, which was recently adapted into a major motion picture by Steven Spielberg. *Armada* tells the story of a teenage gamer in the near future whose skills become necessary when earth is threatened by aliens.

*Brave New World:* Aldous Huxley’s classic dystopian novel explores how genetic engineering, brainwashing and recreational drugs and sex are used to control the population until protagonist Bernard Max tries to break free. *Note: This text may be challenging for many readers.*

*The Cross-Over:* This 2015 Newberry Medal winning book of poetry is written from the perspective of Josh Bell, a basketball phenom who also has a passion for writing his own rap songs. His verse also explores his connection with his family. *Note: This book is recommended for lower level readers.*

*Goodbye Days:* Carver Briggs lives with the aftermath of a fatal car crash that he fears he may have caused when he texts his three best friends.

*The Hate U Give:* Inspired in part by the Black Lives Matter movement, Angie Thomas’s best-selling novel tells the story of sixteen-year-old Starr Carter who becomes the center of a national controversy when she witnesses the murder of her childhood best friend.

*Orbiting Jupiter:* A coming of age novel in which a teen comes to better understand his new foster brother as he helps him to find his daughter. *Note: This book is recommended for lower level readers.*

*Spare Parts:* The real-life story of four undocumented teenagers from Arizona who competed in a national robotics competition in 2004.

For the remainder of the school year students will learn more about these books in their English classes. We will also be sharing opportunities for students to receive support in their reading throughout the summer, including events co-sponsored with the National Hook Up of Black Women. More information about our summer programs will be shared on our webpage and social media throughout the summer.

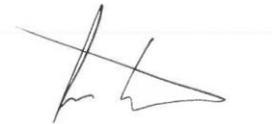
The more students read during the summer, the more they maintain reading and thinking skills developed during the school year. It is for this reason we also encourage students to read *more than one book* this summer. The Joliet Public Library's Summer Reading Challenge (which begins June 3<sup>rd</sup>) offers exciting incentives to students who read over the summer and participate in reading challenges. This program is available to the public; you do not need to be a Joliet Public Library Member to participate. We encourage families to learn more about this program and sign up at the Joliet Public Library webpage:  
[www.jolietlibrary.org/index.php/en/events/summerreading](http://www.jolietlibrary.org/index.php/en/events/summerreading).

We are dedicated to making these books readily available. Students will be able to check out Summer Reading Program books in the school library (which do have limited summer hours). Copies of the books will also be available to check-out or purchase at the main office of each campus. We are also working with the Joliet Public library and local retailers to make sure they have copies available to there to check out or purchase. If you have trouble finding a copy of the book you want to borrow or purchase, please let us know – we can help!

When students return to school in the fall they will participate in activities in their English classes designed to enrich and celebrate their summer reading experiences.

If you have any additional questions about the Summer Reading Program, please feel free to contact me.

Happy reading JTHS!



Brian Conant  
English Curriculum Director  
[bconant@jths.org](mailto:bconant@jths.org) / 815-727-6985