

## O'Neill Middle School – Eighth Grade Suggested Summer Reading List

### **FICTION TITLES**

***Altered* - by Jennifer Rush (Science Fiction):** Everything about Anna's life is a secret. Her father works for the Branch, monitoring and administering treatments to four genetically altered boys in the lab below their farmhouse. When the Branch decides it's time to take the boys, Anna's father pushes her to escape with them, she soon discovers that nothing is as it seemed.

***Bruiser* - by Neal Shusterman (Fantasy):** What if you didn't have to feel pain, any pain? No physical, no emotional pain, ever. The only problem is that you don't just get rid of it; you transfer it to another person. Would you still do it, or would you own your pain? Brewster has tried to remain aloof from everyone except his younger brother, Cody. However, when a brother and sister enter his life, all that he knows and tries not to know changes.

***Code Talker* - by Joseph Bruchac (Historical - WWII):** Throughout World War II, in the battles fought against Japan, Navajo code talkers were a crucial part of the U.S. effort, sending messages back and forth in an unbreakable code that used their native language. Ned Begay, a sixteen-year-old Navajo boy, becomes a code talker. His grueling journey is eye-opening and inspiring.

***Crossover* - by Kwame Alexander (Novel in Verse):** 12-year old Josh Bell and his twin brother Jordan are awesome on the court. But Josh has more than basketball in his blood, he's got mad beats, too, that tell his family's story in verse. Josh and Jordan must come to grips with growing up on and off the court to realize breaking the rules can come at a terrible price.

***Feed* - by M.T. Anderson (Science Fiction):** For Titus and his friends, it started out like any ordinary trip to the moon - a chance to party during spring break. But that was before the hacker caused their feeds to malfunction, sending them to the hospital with nothing inside their heads for days. *Feed* creates a brave new world that is full of satire and a futuristic world laced with humor.

***Forged by Fire* - by Sharon Draper (Realistic Fiction):** Three-year-old boy Gerald lives with his single mother, who often leaves him alone. After Gerald almost burns down the house, he is forced to live with his aunt. After the death of his aunt, he is forced to move back with his mother and her horrible new husband, who has an evil secret. Gerald struggles to protect his little half sister and keep his family together.

***Girl, Stolen* - by April Henry (Realistic Fiction):** Sixteen year-old Cheyenne Wilder is sleeping in the back of a car while her mom fills her prescription at the pharmacy. Before Cheyenne realizes what's happening, their car is being stolen--with her inside! Her kidnapper doesn't know that Cheyenne is not only sick with pneumonia, she is blind. How will Cheyenne survive this nightmare, and if she does, at what price?

***Safekeeping* - by Karen Hesse (Futuristic):** Radley's parents had warned her that all hell would break loose if the American People's Party took power. Now, with the president assassinated and the government cracking down on citizens, their prediction seems to have come true. Radley just wants to get home and when she finally gets there, her parents aren't.

***Waiting to Forget* - by Sheila Kelly Welch (Contemporary):** Waiting can be the hardest part, especially if you are waiting to find out if your younger sister will come out of her coma. T.J. can't believe that his life has brought him to just such a place, after all the times he and Angela survived living with their mother, and all her crazy boyfriends. To have Angela struggling to survive because of something he did, it is almost too much.

***The Good Braider* - by Terry Farish (Novel in Verse):** Viola's family journeys from war-torn Sudan, to Cairo, and finally to Portland, Maine. Here, in the sometimes too close embrace of the local Southern Sudanese Community, she dreams of South Sudan while she tries to navigate the strange world of America—a world where a girl can wear a short skirt, get a tattoo, or even date a boy; a world that puts her into sharp conflict with her traditional mother.

***Somebody Please Tell Me Who I Am* - by Harry Mazer (Contemporary/ Realistic Fiction):** Ben lives a charmed life, landing the lead in the high school musical and dating the prettiest girl in school. When he decides to enlist in the army after 9/11, no one is prepared for his decision. It turns out to have devastating consequences.

***Death Coming Up the Hill* - by Chris Crowe (Novel in Verse):** It's 1968, and war is not foreign to seventeen-year-old Ashe. His dogmatic, racist father married his passionate peace-activist mother when she became pregnant with him, and ever since, the couple, like the situation in Vietnam, has been engaged in a "senseless war that could have been prevented." Ashe isn't sure how to navigate his parents as they become more estranged and drag him into the middle.

***Riot* - by Walter Dean Myers (Historical Fiction):** The Civil War is raging and in a desperate effort to find more recruits, the Union begins a draft. In New York City, Irish are the hardest hit by the draft and in July the city explodes in violence. Caught in the turmoil, fourteen-year-old Claire, the daughter of an Irish mother and a black father, has never had to choose between the two sides of the family - she has never had reason to consider her own identity.

***Cold Calls* - by Charles Benoit (Mystery):** At first Eric didn't pay much attention to the call. It was strange and vague and didn't make much sense. It was the email that really got his attention. An email that showed part of his room. How did someone get a picture of his room? Suddenly, the voice on the phone made Eric sit up and pay attention. The voice wanted him to do something that would get him into trouble.

## **NONFICTION TITLES**

***Navy Seal Dogs* - by Mike Ritland:** Trident K9 Warriors gave readers an inside look at the Navy SEAL teams' elite K9 warriors—who they are, how they are trained, and the extreme missions they undertake to save lives.

***Outcasts United* - by Warren St. John:** Luma never intended to start a soccer team for refugees from other countries. She honestly, was just going for a drive to clear her mind. When she saw boys from many different nations playing soccer, she was enthralled. And so began the story of Luma and the Fugees.

***They Called Themselves the KKK* - by Susan Campbell Bartoletti:** With those words, six restless young men cavorted through the streets of Pulaski, Tennessee in 1866. Quickly, their club grew into the self-proclaimed Invisible Empire with secret dens spread across the South focusing on bringing terror to thousands of people.

***Chinese Cinderella* - by Adeline Yen Mah:** Adeline's affluent, powerful family considers her bad luck after her mother dies giving birth to her. Life does not get any easier when her father remarries. She and her siblings are subjected to the disdain of her stepmother, while her stepbrother and stepsister are spoiled. Although Adeline wins prizes at school, they are not enough to compensate for what she really yearns for -- the love and understanding of her family.

***Beyond Courage: The Untold Story of the Jewish Resistance during the Holocaust* - by Doreen Rappaport:** Under the noses of the military, Georges Loinger smuggled thousands of children out of occupied France into Switzerland. In Belgium, three resistors ambush a train, allowing scores of Jews to flee from the cattle cars. These are just some of the stories of resistance during World War II in this book.

***Witches: The Absolutely True Tale of a Disaster in Salem* - by Roylyn Schanzer:** The riveting, true story of the victims, accused witches, crooked officials, and mass hysteria that turned a mysterious illness into a witch hunt that took people's lives and ruined hundreds more.

\* Some summaries adapted from *Amazon.com*