Dear Incoming 8th grade Millburn Middle School Students and Parents,

Research shows that students who read for pleasure in the summer do better and forget less when they return to school in the fall. The benefits are not just in English/Language Arts class (ELA). Students who don't read over the summer can slide backwards in all subject areas. The summer break offers great opportunities for students, and their families, to help improve reading and writing skills.

Each incoming 8th grade student is required to read at least one 2021 Caudill Award nominated book this summer. There will be a specific assignment for this book when the students return to school in the fall.

- **Becoming Kareem** by Kareem Abdul-Jabbar and Raymond Obstfeld
- **Twelve Days in May: Freedom Ride 1961** by Larry Dane Brimner
- **The Only Road** by Alexandra Diaz
- **The Parker Inheritance** by Varian Johnson.
- **A Long Way Down** by Jason Reynolds
  *A Long Way Down is an outstanding book by Jason Reynolds. It includes graphic language and other more mature content.*

This letter is included in the virtual backpack. We strongly suggest that parents read the same book as their child and discuss it together over the summer. Students are encouraged to keep a journal or annotate as they read.

We are offering a virtual book fair where you will find these titles, and many others. The fair will run through June 5th. Here is the link [https://efairs.follettbookfairs.com/guest/home?classCode=ZG7R2](https://efairs.follettbookfairs.com/guest/home?classCode=ZG7R2)

We don’t stop reading Caudills once the summer is over! All students are encouraged to read at least three Caudill nominated books by February so that they can participate in the state-wide vote for the best book. The Media Center has a reading contest. There are different raffles for students who read five, eight and fifteen of the twenty. Each goal has a due date. Feel free to start reading towards those goals this summer.

Enjoy your summer and happy reading!

The Middle School ELA Teachers
2021 Caudill Reading List For Incoming 8th Graders

We are offering an online book fair as a way for you to purchase your books. This fair runs through June 5th. [Shop Here!]

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Becoming Kareem</th>
<th>Small Spaces</th>
<th>Sweep: The Story of a Girl and Her Monster</th>
<th>Drum Roll, Please</th>
<th>Twelve Days in May</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Me, Frida, and the Secret of the Peacock Ring</td>
<td>New Kid</td>
<td>The Only Road</td>
<td>The Parker Inheritance</td>
<td>Stormy Seas</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nowhere Boy</td>
<td>Miscalculations of Lightning Girl</td>
<td>Resistance</td>
<td>Spirit Hunters</td>
<td>A Good Kind of Trouble</td>
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<tr>
<td>Long Way Down</td>
<td>Amal Unbound</td>
<td>Speechless</td>
<td>Nightbooks</td>
<td>Front Desk</td>
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Above you will find the list of all 20 books nominated on the 2021 Caudill list. For your summer reading, 8th grade-ELA teachers are asking you to please choose ONE OF THE HIGHLIGHTED books from this list to read.

***Once you’ve read your required book, **YOU ARE WELCOME TO READ ANY AND ALL BOOKS ON THIS LIST!**