**MUS 8th-Grade Summer Reading List**

Rising 8th graders should read **three books** over the summer. On his honor a student should choose books that he has not already read. Students will be tested on all three books during the first week of school.

**Nothing But the Truth** by Avi. *Fiction.*
Can a student *really* be suspended for only humming the National Anthem? Can a teacher *really* be forced to resign for instructing him not to? A “documentary novel,” this story is told from a variety of different sources, such as memos, telegrams, newspaper articles, and diary entries, all begging the question: Where and what is the truth?

**Dandelion Wine** by Ray Bradbury. *Fiction.*
When you’re twelve, the summer seems to stretch out forever before you. And that’s how it seems to Douglass Spaulding, too, and he’s going to pack all he can into one summer.

**Ender's Game** by Orson Scott Card. *Science Fiction.* First in a series.
Selected for Battle School, Ender Wiggin must leave home to journey into space to play war games. According to the recruiting officer, “All the boys are organized into armies. . . Nobody gets hurt, but winning and losing matter.” How well Ender learns to fight may determine the fate of his whole world.

**Summerland** by Michael Chabon. *Fantasy.*
In Pulitzer Prize-winning author Michael Chabon’s fantasy novel, Ethan Feld must save the world—through baseball.

**Murder on the Orient Express** by Agatha Christie. *Mystery.*
This classic Hercule Poirot mystery involves a stopped train, a dead man, and a very limited number of people who could have “dunnit.”

**Lionboy** by Zizou Corder. *Fantasy.* First in a series.
Charlie Ashanti journeys from London to Paris in search of his parents, who have been kidnapped. The discovery of a secret will suggest that it’s not only his parents who need rescue; it’s the whole world. Charlie, by the way, speaks Cat.

Matt Alacran grows up learning what it means to have been born a clone. And not just any clone. Matt is the clone of El Patron, lord of a country called Opium. Can he escape his terrible fate?

**The Boy Who Harnessed the Wind: Creating Currents of Electricity and Hope** by William Kamkwamba and Bryan Mealer. *Non-fiction.*
This is the true story of a 15-year-old whose invention brought running water and electricity to his village in Malawi. Note: Be sure to read the regular edition, not the Young Reader’s Edition or the picture book version.

**I Beat the Odds** by Michael Oher and Don Yaeger. *Non-fiction.*
This is the story of Michael Oher and the Memphis family that took him into their home. Memphis Leaders selection.

**Winterdance** by Gary Paulsen. *Non-fiction.*
This is the exciting and powerful account of Paulsen’s training for and then racing of the Iditarod, an 1180-mile sled-dog race across Alaska.
**Bomb** by Steve Sheinkin. Non-fiction.
This is the story of the race to create the atom bomb. In the author’s words, “It’s the story of the creation – and theft – of the deadliest weapon ever invented. The scenes speed around the world, from secret labs to commando raids to street-corner spy meetings.”

**The Hobbit** by J.R.R. Tolkien. *Fantasy.*
This is the classic story of Bilbo Baggins, a hobbit who has never had an adventure (nor wanted one) until the wizard Gandalf appears and invites him on a journey from which “some of [them] or perhaps all of [them] . . . may never return.”

**The Adventures of Tom Sawyer** by Mark Twain. *Fiction.*
Just how much trouble can one boy stir up? Find out and enjoy Mark Twain’s classic, humorous story of a boyhood spent on the banks of the Mississippi River.