



Rolling Meadows High School
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Dr. David R. Schuler
Superintendent

Eileen M. Hart
Principal

May 2021

Welcome to Honors Written and Oral Communications!

We are so excited to meet you and get your high school experience started in a great way. Your hard work has given you the opportunity to be a part of our English honors program. The first course you will take is Honors Written and Oral Communications. It is a fairly rigorous blending of reading, writing, and speaking throughout the entire freshman year. As an honors expectation, you will be asked to read a couple of books before the start of school. We will be walking you through a writing assignment and some discussions during those first couple of weeks, so you'll want to be prepared by having your reading finished. The required reading options for our course are listed below.

Congratulations again and welcome to the Home of the Mustangs!

Mr. Anthony Como

Mrs. Aimee Schaap

Required Readings for Honors Written & Oral Communications:

1. **Read ONE of the following classic novels. A writing assignment on this selection will be introduced during the first two weeks of class.**

Option A: *Animal Farm* by George Orwell

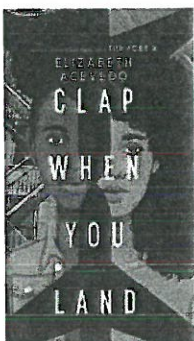
A farm is taken over by its overworked, mistreated animals. With flaming idealism and stirring slogans, they set out to create a paradise of progress, justice, and equality. Thus the stage is set for one of the most telling satiric fables ever penned – a razor-edged fairy tale for grown-ups that records the evolution from revolution against tyranny to a totalitarianism just as terrible. (Goodreads)

OR

Option B: *The House on Mango Street* by Sandra Cisneros (Contains mature themes)

Told in a series of vignettes – sometimes heartbreaking, sometimes deeply joyous—it is the story of a young Latina girl growing up in Chicago, inventing for herself who and what she will become. (Goodreads)

2. **Read ONE of the books off of our school's summer reading list.** There will be a multiple-choice quiz during the first few weeks of school on the book you choose, which could result in bonus points. The summer reading choices are listed in the attachment to this letter.



Clap When You Land by Elizabeth Acevedo

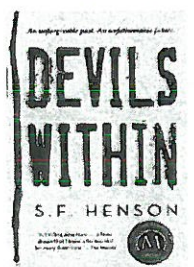
May contain mature themes

From National Book Award-winning and *New York Times* bestselling author Elizabeth Acevedo

Camino Rios lives for the summers when her father visits her in the Dominican Republic. But this time, on the day when his plane is supposed to land, Camino arrives at the airport to see crowds of crying people... In New York City, Yahaira Rios is called to the principal's office, where her mother is waiting to tell her that her father, her hero, has died in a plane crash.

Separated by distance—and Papi's secrets—the two girls are forced to face a new reality in which their father is dead and their lives are forever altered. And then, when it seems like they've lost everything of their father, they learn of each other.

The Today Show's pick for "25 children's books your kids and teens won't be able to put down this summer!"



Devils Within by S.F. Henson

May contain mature themes

Nate was eight the first time he stabbed someone; he was eleven when he earned his red laces—a prize for spilling blood for "the cause." And he was fourteen when he murdered his father (and the leader of The Fort, a notorious white supremacist compound) in self-defense, landing in a treatment center while the state searched for his next of kin. Now, in the custody of an uncle he never knew existed, who wants nothing to do with him, Nate just wants to disappear.

Enrolled in a new school under a false name, so no one from The Fort can find him, he struggles to forge a new life, trying to learn how to navigate a world where people of different races interact without enmity. But he can't stop awful thoughts from popping into his head, or help the way he shivers with a desire to commit violence. He wants to be different—he just doesn't know where to start.



Fake ID by Lamar Giles

May contain mature themes

Lamar Giles takes readers on a wild and dark ride in this contemporary Witness Protection thriller, perfect for fans of James Patterson, Harlan Coben, and John Grisham.

Nick Pearson is hiding in plain sight. In fact, his name isn't really Nick Pearson. He shouldn't tell you his real name, his real hometown, or why his family just moved to Stepton, Virginia. And he definitely shouldn't tell you about his friend Eli Cruz and the major conspiracy Eli was uncovering when he died. About how Nick had to choose between solving Eli's murder with his hot sister, Reya, and "staying low-key" like the Program said to do. But he's going to tell you—unless he gets caught first. . .



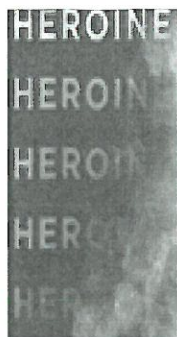
Furia by Yamile Saied Méndez

May contain mature themes

In Rosario, Argentina, Camila Hassan lives a double life. At home, she is a careful daughter, living within her mother's narrow expectations, in her rising-soccer-star brother's shadow, and under the abusive rule of her short-tempered father. On the field, she is La Furia, a powerhouse of skill and talent. When her team qualifies for the South American tournament, Camila gets the chance to see just how far those talents can take her. In her wildest dreams, she'd get an athletic scholarship to a North American university.

But the path ahead isn't easy. Her parents don't know about her passion. They wouldn't allow a girl to play fútbol—and she needs their permission to go any farther. As her life becomes more complicated, Camila is forced to face her secrets and make her way in a world with no place for the dreams and ambition of a girl like her.

A Best Book of the Year: Cosmopolitan * Kirkus Reviews * SheReads * New York Public Library



Edgar Award-winning author Mindy McGinnis delivers a visceral and necessary novel about addiction, family, friendship, and hope.

When a car crash sidelines Mickey just before softball season, she has to find a way to hold on to her spot as the catcher for a team expected to make a historic tournament run. Behind the plate is the only place she's ever felt comfortable, and the painkillers she's been prescribed can help her get there. The pills do more than take away pain; they make her feel good. With a new circle of friends—fellow injured athletes, others with just time to kill—Mickey finds peaceful acceptance, and people with whom words come easily, even if it is just the pills loosening her tongue. But as the pressure to be Mickey Catalan heightens, her need increases, and it becomes less about pain and more about want, something that could send her spiraling out of control.



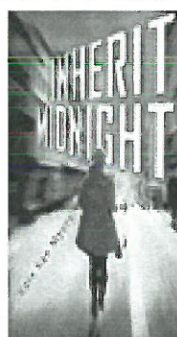
***The House in the Cerulean Sea* by TJ Klune**

May contain mature themes

A magical island. A dangerous task. A burning secret.

Linus Baker leads a quiet, solitary life. At forty, he lives in a tiny house with a devious cat and his old records. As a Case Worker at the Department In Charge Of Magical Youth, he spends his days overseeing the well-being of children in government-sanctioned orphanages. When Linus is unexpectedly summoned by Extremely Upper Management he's given a curious and highly classified assignment: travel to Marsyas Island Orphanage, where six dangerous children reside: a gnome, a sprite, a wyvern, an unidentifiable green blob, a were-Pomeranian, and the Antichrist. Linus must set aside his fears and determine whether or not they're likely to bring about the end of days.

**A NEW YORK TIMES, USA TODAY, and WASHINGTON POST BESTSELLER!
A 2021 Alex Award winner! The 2021 RUSA Reading List: Fantasy Winner!**



***Inherit Midnight* by Kate Kae Myers**

Seventeen-year-old Avery VanDemere's ridiculously wealthy grandmother has decided to leave the family fortune to the relative who proves him or herself worthiest—by solving puzzles and riddles on a whirlwind race around the globe. For Avery, the contest offers a chance to escape. As the black sheep of the VanDemere clan—the illegitimate daughter, sent away to boarding school—she'd love to use that prize money to run away from the family who ostracized her . . . and discover the truth about her long-lost mother.

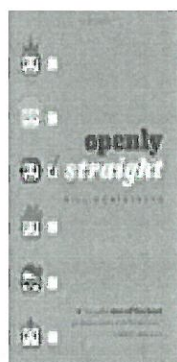
Marshall might be Avery's uncle by blood, but there's no love lost between them. He'll do anything to win, even if it means turning on his own children. Riley is the charming son of Grandmother VanDemere's lawyer. As the game progresses, Avery finds herself drawn to him—even though she isn't quite sure she can trust him. Treacherous turns in the competition serve as brutal reminders that only one person can win it all. Is Avery willing to risk both her heart and her life to claim the grand prize?



***March (Book One)* by Jon Lewis**

Congressman John Lewis (GA-5) is an American icon and key figure of the civil rights movement. *March* is a vivid first-hand the days of Jim Crow and segregation. Rooted in Lewis' personal story, it also reflects on the highs and lows of the broader civil rights movement. Book One spans John Lewis' youth in rural Alabama, his life-changing meeting with Martin Luther King, Jr., the birth of the Nashville Student Movement, and their battle to tear down segregation through nonviolent lunch counter sit-ins, building to a stunning climax on the steps of City Hall.

Winner of the Robert F. Kennedy Book Award — Special Recognition Named one of the best books of 2013 by USA Today, The Washington Post, Publishers Weekly, Library Journal, School Library


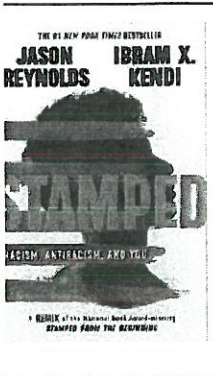
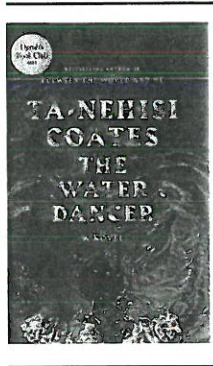
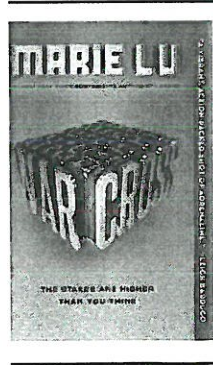
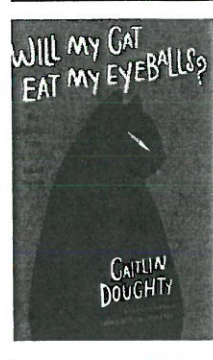


***Openly Straight* by Bill Konigsburg**

May contain mature themes

The award-winning novel about being out, being proud, and being ready for something else... now in paperback.

Rafe is a normal teenager from Boulder, Colorado. He plays soccer. He's won skiing prizes. He likes to write. And, oh yeah, he's gay. He's been out since 8th grade, and he isn't teased, and he goes to other high schools and talks about tolerance and stuff. And while that's important, all Rafe really wants is to just be a regular guy. Not that GAY guy. To have it be a part of who he is, but not the headline, every single time. So when he transfers to an all-boys' boarding school in New England, he decides to keep his sexuality a secret -- not so much going back in the closet as starting over with a clean slate. But then he sees a classmate breaking down. He meets a teacher who challenges him to write his story. And most of all, he falls in love with Ben... who doesn't even know that love is possible.

	<p>Zenn Diagram by Wendy Brant</p> <p><i>May contain mature themes</i></p> <p>Eva Walker is a seventeen-year-old math genius. And if that doesn't do wonders for her popularity, there's another thing that makes it even worse: when she touches another person or anything that belongs to them — from clothes to textbooks to cell phones — she sees a vision of their emotions. She can read a person's fears and anxieties, their secrets and loves ... and what they have yet to learn about calculus. This is helpful for her work as a math tutor, but it means she can never get close to people. Eva avoids touching anyone and everyone. People think it's because she's a clean freak — with the emphasis on freak — but it's all she can do to protect herself from other people's issues.</p> <p>Then one day a new student walks into Eva's life. His jacket gives off so much emotional trauma that she falls to the floor. Eva is instantly drawn to Zenn, a handsome and soulful artist who also has a troubled home life, and her feelings only grow when she realizes that she can touch Zenn's skin without having visions. But when she discovers the history that links them, the truth threatens to tear the two apart.</p>
	<p>Stamped by Jason Reynolds, Ibram X. Kendi</p> <p><i>May contain mature themes</i></p> <p>The construct of race has always been used to gain and keep power, to create dynamics that separate and silence. This remarkable reimagining of Dr. Ibram X. Kendi's National Book Award-winning <i>Stamped from the Beginning</i> reveals the history of racist ideas in America, and inspires hope for an antiracist future. It takes you on a race journey from then to now, shows you why we feel how we feel, and why the poison of racism lingers. It also proves that while racist ideas have always been easy to fabricate and distribute, they can also be discredited.</p> <p>Through a gripping, fast-paced, and energizing narrative written by beloved award-winner Jason Reynolds, this book shines a light on the many insidious forms of racist ideas—and on ways readers can identify and stamp out racist thoughts in their daily lives.</p> <p>The #1 New York Times bestseller and a USA Today bestseller!</p>
	<p>Water Dancer by Ta-Nehisi Coates</p> <p><i>May contain mature themes</i></p> <p>Young Hiram Walker was born into bondage. When his mother was sold away, Hiram was robbed of all memory of her—but was gifted with a mysterious power. Years later, when Hiram almost drowns in a river, that same power saves his life. This brush with death births an urgency in Hiram and a daring scheme: to escape from the only home he's ever known. So begins an unexpected journey that takes Hiram from the corrupt grandeur of Virginia's proud plantations to desperate guerrilla cells in the wilderness, from the coffin of the Deep South to dangerously idealistic movements in the North. Even as he's enlisted in the underground war between slavers and the enslaved, Hiram's resolve to rescue the family he left behind endures.</p> <p>#1 NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER • OPRAH'S BOOK CLUB PICK</p>
	<p>Warcross by Marie Lu</p> <p><i>May contain mature themes</i></p> <p>When a game called Warcross takes the world by storm, one girl hacks her way into its dangerous depths. For the millions who log in every day, Warcross isn't just a game—it's a way of life. The obsession started ten years ago and its fan base now spans the globe, some eager to escape from reality and others hoping to make a profit. Struggling to make ends meet, teenage hacker Emika Chen works as a bounty hunter, tracking down Warcross players who bet on the game illegally. But the bounty-hunting world is a competitive one, and survival has not been easy. To make some quick cash, Emika takes a risk and hacks into the opening game of the international Warcross Championships—only to accidentally glitch herself into the action and become an overnight sensation.</p>
	<p>Will My Cat Eat My Eyeballs? by Caitlin Doughty, Dianne Ruz (Illustrator)</p> <p>Everyone has questions about death. In <i>Will My Cat Eat My Eyeballs?</i>, best-selling author and mortician Caitlin Doughty answers the most intriguing questions she's ever received about what happens to our bodies when we die. In a brisk, informative, and morbidly funny style, Doughty explores everything from ancient Egyptian death rituals and the science of skeletons to flesh-eating insects and the proper depth at which to bury your pet if you want Fluffy to become a mummy. Now featuring an interview with a clinical expert on discussing these issues with young people—the source of some of our most revealing questions about death—<i>Will My Cat Eat My Eyeballs?</i> confronts our common fear of dying with candid, honest, and hilarious facts about what awaits the body we leave behind.</p> <p>New York Times Bestseller Winner of a Goodreads Choice Award</p>